

HOW DOES A LOG DISAPPEAR?



YEAR 1

When a tree crashes to the ground, small branches are knocked off.



YEAR 3

More branches are lost. Bark is loose from fungus and insects eating the inner bark (cambium)..



YEAR 10

Bark is gone. Fungus is decaying inside of log. Insects have created tunnels inside log.



YEAR 30

Action of carpenter ants, termites, other insects and fungi have decayed much of log.



YEAR 50

A large log may take 50 years to decompose.



1

A bark beetle tunnels into the tree carrying fungus that will soften the wood.



2

The body of a fungus called a mycellium grows in the outer layer of wood.



3

A mushroom grows from the fungus decaying the log.



4

Carpenter ants tunnel through the decaying log, turning wood into sawdust and creating tunnels that become freeways for other animals.



5

A Pileated Woodpecker chips away at the log in search of carpenter ants.



6

A termite farts out methane which contains carbon from the log.



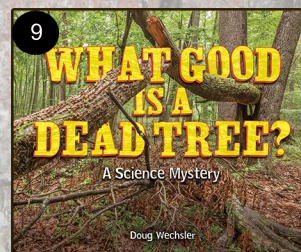
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An earthworm eats bits of rotting wood, insect poop, and fungus and helps turn that into soil.



8

A ring-necked snake ate a salamander that ate a springtail that ate fungus growing from the log. Then it left the log with molecules originally from the log.



9

Get the whole story. Read *What Good is a Dead Tree?*



Author Doug Wechsler peers into a log.