



Family Activity: Snags, Limbs, and Logs

An activity for all ages

As you explore nature, you will discover a number of dead trees (snags), dead limbs, and logs in the wilderness. Did you know these dead trees play an important role in nature? There is life in these dead trees! Many animal residents call dead trees home. These landscape features are important parts of habitats. One estimate suggests up to 2/3 of all species rely on dead wood at some point in their lifetimes.

Procedure: Today you are going to go on a dead tree hike! Take a look around as you explore. Bring binoculars to look high up into dead trees on and dead limbs to see what you can find. Illustrate some of your discoveries in the boxes below. See if you can use binoculars, your field guide, or your phone to identify what animals are using dead trees as a home.

Dead Tree (Snag)

Dead Limb

Log

Snags, dead limbs, and logs are used as **food sources, lookouts, hiding places, homes, and nutrients that help replenish** the forest floor. See if you can find an animal using dead trees for these purposes. Can you identify the animal? Can you identify if the tree is a snag, limb, or log?

Use for the Dead Tree	Who is Using it?	Snag, Log, or Limb?
Food Source		
Lookout		
Hiding Place		
Home		
Replenishing Nutrients		