

Forests are home to many creatures! Go outside into a wooded or forested area, and find a fallen log. Touch it if you want to, is it soft like it has been there a while? Or do you think it is more recent? Use your **magnifying glass** to see if there are any small holes in the log or signs of use by insects or woodpeckers. Maybe you even see the insects themselves as you look! Is there anything growing on the log, like moss, lichen, or maybe mushrooms? Moss, lichen, and mushrooms are all decomposers that help break down the log. Make observations and draw your log and anything that you see on or in it in your **journal**. Nature is always changing, so label what you drew so that if you come back to this log later, you can tell what changed. While you are out and about investigating the log, see if you can find any other creatures of the forest. Do you hear or see any other animals such as birds, squirrels, or insects?

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