

Find two groups of natural items– Acorns, leaves, pecans, etc.

1. Estimate the number of each. _____ , _____

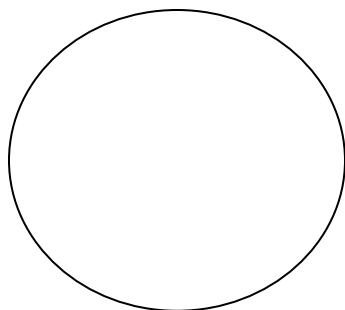
2. Count them. _____ , _____

Make a scatterplot of your findings.

Gather some leaves.
Sort them by color.
Use a fraction to create a ratio.

	Color	Color	Color	Color
#				

Make a circle chart (pie chart) with your data
What can conjecture can you make?



Sketch a 3-dimensional figure

Native Texas Forest Boardwalk



MIDDLE SCHOOL

Science 8(B,C); 12(B); 14(C)
Science 8(B); 11(B); 12(B); 14©
Math (6.2, 6.3, 6.10, 6.13, 7.2, 8.2, 8.7)

Education Department 2008-2009
Featuring thirteen interpretation stations,
beginning at the south end and walking north.

Photosynthesis Station 5

1. Energy from the Sun is converted to chemical energy through _____

2. Compare the growth of East sides of the Boardwalk to the West side.
Are their needs the same?

How do they differ? Write your observations.

Food Web Station 7

3. Complete the Food Web vocabulary pairs

Producer / _____

_____ / prey

Parasite / _____

4. Choose an organism

Describe it, including its size, color, and dominant features.

What does it eat, or how does it get its nutrients?

How does this food source change during each seasons?

How does the organism react to seasonal change?

What eats or preys above this organism?

Is this organism a producer or consumer?

What is the life span of this organism?

During which seasons is it most active? Why?

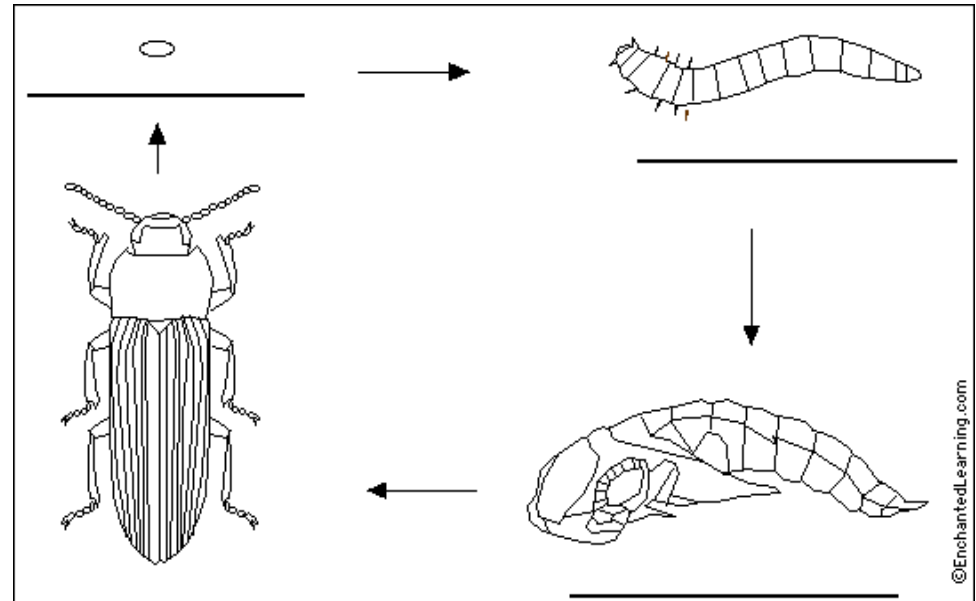
The World Beneath Your Feet Station 13

Several trees were cut down and now are rotting logs, an important part of a living community. In each stage of its decay, a rotting log hosts a multitude of plants and animals that either consume it, or each other.

The first stage of decomposition begins while the tree is still standing. Insects invade the tree either by boring into it or by entering an opening in the bark that created by animal or caused by **humans**, disease, weather or fire. As **beetles** burrow under the bark, their tunnels permit air, moisture and fungal spores to enter the tree. In turn, the **fungi** are food for some bacteria, **slugs** and **insect larvae**. Invading carpenter **ants** attract **woodpeckers**. Eventually, the weakened tree falls.

Moisture from the damp ground attracts **salamanders**, **centipedes**, **pillbugs** and various scavengers, and support the growth of **mosses**, **ferns** and other plants. **Wood-boring beetles** and **spiders** inhabit the dryer portions of the log. As the log collapses, **earthworms**, **millipedes**, fungi and bacteria carry out the remaining decay. It can take up to 10 years to transform a dead tree into soil. The rate of decay is influenced by the temperature, the amount of moisture, the length of the seasons and the succession of organisms living on or in the rotting log.

5. How many of the above highlighted organisms can you find?



Label the stages in the life cycle of a darkling beetle. Where might each stage be found?