

Forest of S.T. Shrew — Evaluate

Option 1: Give each student a copy of the [What's the Connection?](#) student page to complete. Use student responses to assess their learning. Possible answers include:

Living things:

- Ant
- Bird
- Beetle
- Carrion beetle
- Caterpillar
- Centipede
- Earthworm
- Fly
- Fungi
- Grasshopper
- Grub
- Lichen
- Millipede
- Moss
- Nuthatch
- Orange fungus
- Pill bug
- Roach
- Termite
- Salamander
- Shrew
- Spider
- Squirrel
- Wasp
- White grub
- Wood roach

Non-living things:

- Air
- Dead animals
- Dead leaf
- Dirt
- Ground
- Log
- Soil

Ways living and non-living things are connected in the story:

- Earthworms and beetles and other organisms live in the ground, eating the soil and using bits of plants and other foods found it.
- Carrion beetles eat animals that have died.
- Moss and fungi live on dead logs.
- Wood roaches, termites, pill bugs, beetles, salamanders and other organisms live inside logs, chewing and tunneling through the wood, helping to break down the log and turning it into soil.
- Nuthatches and other birds, fly in the air.

Option 2: Using the [In the Forest of S.T. Shrew](#) student page or one of the suggested texts listed in [Recommended Reading](#), have students perform a [cloze reading](#) assignment, using their knowledge and subject comprehension to fill in the blanks. Cloze reading is a test of comprehension that involves having students use their knowledge to supply words that have been systematically deleted from a text. You may delete specific content words for students to complete, such as:

Millie was pointing out things and explaining them to _____, who was having trouble absorbing all of the information. She finally began to get the idea that she was in a kind of factory that breaks down _____ into soil. Everywhere they went there were things _____, tunneling, and burrowing through the wood. There were wood roaches, small white termites, and hard-shelled pillbugs rolled into tight little _____ as she and Millie went by. There were also insect-eating _____: huge, shiny black beetles with giant jaws, and centipedes with venomous fangs. At one point, when they'd crawled inside the log, they saw a salamander resting in a dark damp hole in the _____ log. Possible answers include, in the order they appear in the sample cloze passage: Jackie, logs, chewing, balls, hunters, decomposing.