

Key Vocabulary: A Home for Many

Complete this worksheet to demonstrate your understanding of key terms used in this lesson. From their leafy branches to their tangled roots, trees provide a habitat for all kinds of plants and

animals. Use the word bank below to fill in the story blanks and learn more about how trees can be a good habitat for many different plants and animals.

Word Bank

bacteria
habitat

decomposers
nutrients

ecosystem
snags

fungi
species

A _____ is the natural home or environment for an organism, where it gets everything it needs to survive, including food, water, shelter, and space. Some organisms need huge habitats and others use tiny ones.

Trees are important habitats for many plants and animals. For some organisms, a tree may be just part of their habitat, and for others, a tree may be their entire habitat. For example, a squirrel may visit an oak tree to get acorns to eat, and also depend on many other trees and plants for food and nesting. But a patch of moss on the oak tree gets everything it needs right on that tree.

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Even standing dead trees, called _____, provide habitat for a number of different _____. Tree frogs and beetles live under a snag's bark, while woodpeckers and other birds feed on the insects that live on snags. Chickadees nest in holes created by woodpeckers. Squirrels and deer mice store food in the holes.

Dead trees also contain small insects, _____, _____ and other organisms that eat the dead and decaying plant matter. These _____ are very important for any _____ because they recycle nutrients from the tree so that other plants can use them. Without decomposers, trees and other plants would not get essential _____, and dead matter and waste would pile up.

