

Log Life

Written and Illustrated By: Amy Hevron

Synopsis: Discover the ecosystem of a nurse log and its 1,000 year lifecycle, as it becomes a home for many different organisms and forest critters.

Suggested Reading Date: March 21 (International Day of Forests)

Activity Descriptions:

- Illustrate food webs that can be found on nurse logs, such as fungi, snails, and salamanders.
- Mammals and amphibians live in nurse logs. What are the predators for these critters?
- Douglas Fir trees in the Pacific Northwest can live up to 1,000 years and take centuries to decompose! Create a timeline with illustrations of the process.
- Create a diorama of a nurse log in the rainforest with found materials in nature.
- Create a poster of the roles of decomposers, producers, and consumers on the nurse log
- Makerspace: Create a miniature rainforest in "eco-bottles."

Related Websites:

- Author Website, Amy Hevron: <https://amyhevron.com/>
- *Log Life* read by Amy Hevron: <https://youtu.be/NRIIn6nXV8?si=afOVUmwf7c8itX0D>
- Quinault Rainforest Loop - Washington Trails Association: <https://www.wta.org/go-hiking/hikes/quinault-rainforest-nature-loop>
- Nature - National Park Service, Olympic National Park: <https://www.nps.gov/olym/learn/nature/index.htm#:~:text=Diversity%20is%20the%20hallmark%20of,old%2Dgrowth%20temperate%20rain%20forest>
- Ecosystem Processes Related to Wood Decay by Bruce Marcot: https://www.fs.usda.gov/pnw/pubs/pnw_rn576.pdf
- Earth Science Picture of the Day - Student links for ecology of a nurse log in the Hoh Rainforest: <https://epod.usra.edu/blog/2019/07/nurse-logs.html>
- Northwest Travel Magazine, Olympic Rainforest: https://www.nwtravelmag.com/outdoor-adventures/the-eternal-rainforests-in-washington-s-olympic-peninsula/article_7c0cc91e-54ec-591e-9029-bb131c1a5393.html

Text to Text Connections:

- *A Log's Life* by Wendy Pfeffer
- *Can You Hug a Forest?* by Frances Gilbert
- *Forest Explorer: a life-size field guide* by Nic Bishop
- *Forest Magic: a guidebook for little woodland explorers* by Sarah Grindler
- *When a Tree Falls: nurse logs and their incredible forest power* by Kirsten Pendreigh

Created By: Jerilyn Gerhardstein