

Life, In
a Dead
Tree?

Did you know?

- **Dead trees provide homes for many animals and insects. They have features that live trees do not!**

Many insects love dead trees-

There are many species of insects and other invertebrates that live in dead trees. Usually, these insects and invertebrates feed on the tree. Remember, invertebrates are animals without backbones.

Have you ever
seen a dead
tree? Did you
notice holes?

- To build nests, the insects and invertebrates bore holes in the tree.

Many Birds
love dead trees-

Have you ever seen a woodpecker feeding on insects in a tree? Well these woodpeckers also feed on insects in dead trees. Like the woodpecker, many other birds feed on insects by making their holes bigger. There are times that birds make the hole so big that they move in!

Owls, hawks, and flycatchers perch in dead trees.

Why do you think they do this?

- They do this to search for prey.
Because the tree is dead there are no leaves blocking their vision!

Many small
animals love
dead trees-

Sometimes squirrels, raccoons,
opossums, and wood ducks live in dead
trees.

What about these dead branches?

- When branches fall off trees they make brush piles on the ground. What do you think is living in this brush pile?

Insects moved into this brush pile first. Then small animals that eat insects came to live here too. Some of these animals include skunks, lizards, and birds. Even though rabbits don't eat insects, they still enjoy living in this brush pile.



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