THE DEAD TREE

Death in the forest is natural. The old trees have produced thousands of seeds so that new trees can replace them.

Find a dead or dying tree and look for the saplings growing nearby. Which one do you think will reach the canopy first?

Fungi are part of the clean-up crew and help to break down these old trees so they can return to the soil.

Find and draw a fungi or mushroom.

THE ROTTEN LOG

Some insects, worms and fungi are **decomposers**. They feed on rotting things, turning them back into soil.

Seedlings grow in this soil using the nutrients from the old tree.

Gently roll over a rotten log and see what you can find.

Remember to put the log back carefully!

Draw a creature you found under the log.

A NEW BEGINNING

Can you find a newly sprouted tree on a rotten log or stump?

Wish it good luck!

ONTARIO PARKS

Presqu'ile

The Life of a Tree

An Activity Book for Jobes' Woods Trail

THE SEED

Look around the forest floor for a seed. *Draw your seed below.*

A tree wants to make sure their seeds travel away from the tree. Some seeds come with "wings" so they can move with the wind and some seeds are yummy and so are carried by animals.

How do you think your seed travels?

THE SEEDLING

Different seeds need special conditions before they can grow but all seeds need the right temperature and lots of water to grow.

Can you find any baby trees beginning to grow? *They will have a woody stem.*

THE SAPLING

Look for a tree around the same size as you. *Draw the leaves of your tree.*

Seedlings don't always get to become saplings because the sunlight they need is blocked by the tall trees above.

Look up! Do you see a gap in the canopy where the sun can reach your sapling? These gaps are formed as older trees die and fall to the ground.

THE CANOPY TREE

All saplings are in a race to the top. The winners will become magnificent canopy trees. *Find a large canopy tree.* This tree will produce seeds for the next generation. Give your tree a hug and feel the bark.

Make a bark rubbing of your tree.