



# Under a tree

A tree casts a shadow and keeps out the light – and most plants.

Trees are the biggest plants. They grow lots of leaves and spread them out to catch the light. The leaves make it shady under the tree. It is too dim for most other plants to grow.

The tree also takes up water with its roots. This makes the soil too dry for other plants.

It is shady and dry under a tree.







Few animals live under a tree.  
You may see a few beetles  
crawling around on the ground  
and earthworms may pull dead  
leaves down into the soil.



beetle

earthworms



**Why are there few plants under the trees?**