



**Project Learning Tree®**

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[www.plt.org](http://www.plt.org)

# Project Learning Tree

Is a program of the American Forest Foundation, a nonprofit organization that works for:

- healthy forests
- quality environmental education
- informed decision-making about our communities and our world



In Virginia, PLT is sponsored by:



# What is Project Learning Tree?

## A Comprehensive EE Program

High quality, PreK-12 EE curriculum materials

Diverse, international network of partners

Implementation via a successful delivery system of professional development



# PLT's Mission

**PLT uses the forest as a "window on the world" to:**

- Increase students' understanding of our complex environment
- Stimulate critical and creative thinking
- Develop the ability to make informed decisions on environmental issues
- Instill the confidence and commitment to take responsible action



# National, State, and Local Partnerships



# PLT Curriculum

## PLT for ages 3-6

- Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood

## PLT for grades PreK-8

- PreK-8 Environmental Education Activity Guide
- Energy and Society

## PLT for Secondary

- 5 printed modules
- 2 online modules



# Early Childhood Experiences



## Exploring Nature with Five Senses

Sight: The Shape of Things

Sound: Sounds Around

Touch: Get in Touch with Trees

Taste and Smell: We All Need Trees

## Experiencing Trees Through Seasons

Fall: Signs of Fall

Winter: Evergreen Magic

Spring: Bursting Buds

Summer: Adopt a Tree

## Meeting Neighborhood Trees

To Be a Tree

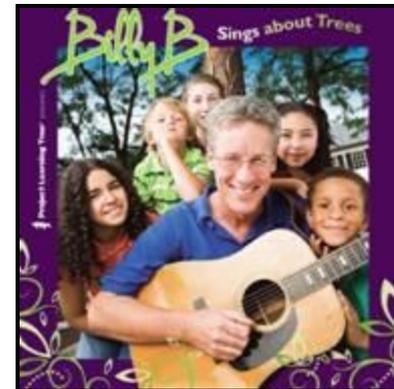
Trees as Habitats

Three Cheers for Trees



# Music and Movement

- Fosters Brain Development
- Develops Gross and Fine Motor Skills
- Benefits Children with Special Needs



## Project Learning Tree: Early Childhood CD

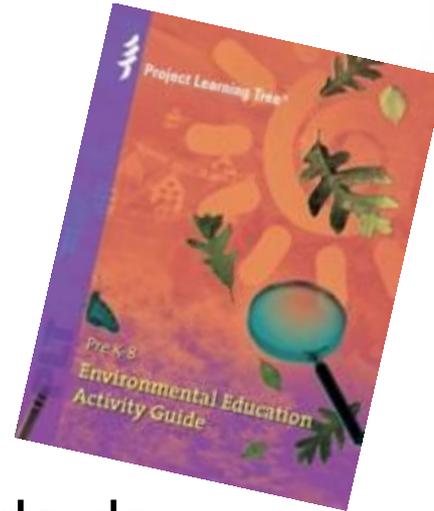
- Supports EC Experiences
- Sounds of Nature
- Billy B Songs



# PLT's PreK-8 Environmental Education Activity Guide

## New Features

- Reading Connections
- Technology Connections
- Differentiated Instruction
- New Design



## Aligned to National and State Standards

## Classroom Friendly

- 96 hands-on, interdisciplinary activities
- Indoor and outdoor activities



# Energy & Society Kit

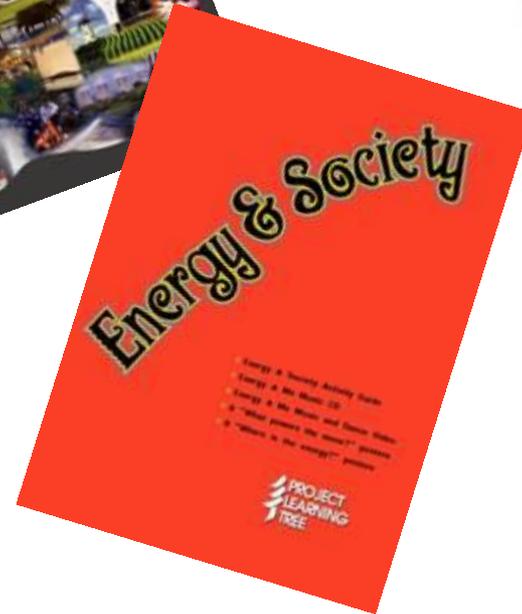
## Activity Guide

## Music & Dance by Billy B

- Energy & Me CD
- Energy & Me music and dance DVD

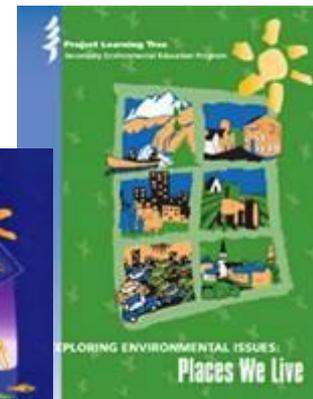
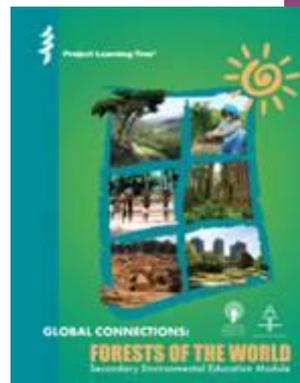
## Poster Set

- Where is the energy?
- What powers the move?



# Secondary Modules (Grades 9-12)

- Focus on Forests
- Municipal Solid Waste
- Focus on Risk
  - Biotechnology Supplement
- Places We Live
- Biodiversity (Online)
- Forests of the World



# Standards Correlations and NCLB

Most states have aligned PLT materials to their state academic standards

Visit [www.plt.org](http://www.plt.org) for national and state correlations.

Searchable correlation at [www.cnre.vt.edu/plt](http://www.cnre.vt.edu/plt)

No Child Left Inside Act 2010 (H.R. 2054/S.866)

No Child Left Inside Act of 2011 – introduced July 14

- AFF/PLT a member of the NCLI coalition
- Legislation would:
  - authorize Environmental Education in NCLB
  - provide new funding to states for teacher training and state environmental literacy plans



# Every Student Learns Outside

[www.learnoutside.org](http://www.learnoutside.org)

Learn how to make outdoor experiences part of everyday lesson plans

Find a series of kids activity pages for “non-educators” based upon PLT activities



# Educator Support Materials

***The Branch***, PLT's quarterly online newsletter

Information on PLT's programs and resources

Latest in environmental education news

**The PLT website, [www.plt.org](http://www.plt.org)**

Resources by Activity Pages

Download student pages

Find additional resources for each activity

Calendar of PLT events

Standards Correlations

and more!



# Recognizing Excellence

PLT's National Outstanding Educator Program



Recognizes educators for their commitment to EE, teaching skills, and use of PLT

Five winners chosen each year from state nominations





Grants up to \$1,000 for students to complete environmental service-learning projects.

Integrates community service with the academic curriculum.

Combines the environmental knowledge and resources of PLT with community action initiatives.



**Next Deadline:**

September 30, 2012

Check [www.plt.org](http://www.plt.org) for the most updated information.

[www.plt.org](http://www.plt.org)



# ***GreenWorks!* In Action: Biodiesel ReEnergizes Us**

11<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Students in Utah created biodiesel...



...then powered a van with it for field trips!



# PLT's *GreenSchools!* Program

## It combines:

- environmental education
- service-learning
- leadership opportunities

## It engages:

- teachers, faculty, maintenance staff
- students
- school board members
- parents and community members

## Students

- reduce the ecological footprint of their school
- create a more green and healthy learning environment
- save their school money!



# How can schools participate?



1. Attend a PLT Workshop
2. Register Online – [www.pltgreenschools.org](http://www.pltgreenschools.org)
3. Obtain *GreenSchools!* Investigations
4. Form a *GreenSchools!* Team
5. Complete 5 *GreenSchools!* Investigations
6. Conduct Environmental Action Projects
7. Collect Data to Support Change



# *GreenSchools!* Investigations

- Energy Use
- Waste and Recycling
- Water Consumption
- School Site
- Environmental Quality



# PLT *GreenSchools!* and *GreenWorks!*

Based on service-learning practices:

- Investigation
- Preparation
- Action
- Reflection
- Demonstration
- Celebration



All about Youth Voice!!



# Project Learning Tree Works

30,000 educators trained a year.

Half of users report using PLT at least once a month.

Recipient of national awards

60% of workshop participants are referred to PLT by another educator.

