



Pennsylvania Project Learning Tree Facilitator Handbook



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Introduction

This handbook is a guide for conducting Project Learning Tree (PLT) workshops. It explains PLT's mission and objectives, the goals of a PLT workshop, your responsibilities as a facilitator, how to find a workshop site, how to publicize your workshop, and what to include in the workshop itself. It discusses materials, equipment, and resource specialists you may want to involve in your workshops, as well as suggestions for workshop follow-up. It also examines topics you may want to model and discuss, including environmental education, teaching outdoors, cooperative learning, differentiated instruction, and others.

If you are a new facilitator, you may use this handbook as a step-by-step guide for planning and conducting your workshops. If you are a seasoned PLT facilitator, you may use it to find new ideas to enhance your workshops. The table of contents will help you locate specific information you need.

Workshop facilitators have been the lifeblood of PLT for more than 30 years. They have successfully trained over 500,000 educators to use PLT materials, and continue to assist in expanding the reach of PLT nationwide and internationally. Without the time and energy these facilitators provide to the program, PLT would not have attained the recognition it has for being the cornerstone for environmental education.

Now that you have joined the ranks of these very important facilitators, you will benefit from their experiences. This handbook is the direct result of what others have learned by doing workshops, and includes lots of suggestions for you. We hope you will add to this handbook your own experiences, things you want to try next time, and ideas you pick up along the way.

If you find an approach that works and want to share it, please do so with your state PLT coordinator and the PLT national office.

We give our sincere thanks to all of you who have chosen to become an integral part of the PLT network.

Acknowledgments

The Project Learning Tree Facilitator's Handbook is a culmination of efforts from many individuals, including state PLT Coordinators, PLT Operating Committee members, and PLT staff. The Pennsylvania version of this handbook was developed, compiled, formatted and edited by M. Frances Stein, Heidi Solley, Ruth Roperti, Martha Moore and Jean Devlin with input from over 40 Pennsylvania PLT facilitators.

Pennsylvania PLT Sponsors

Project Learning Tree® is the environmental education program of the American Forest Foundation and sponsored in Pennsylvania by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators.



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<http://dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/education/projectlearningtree/index.htm>

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Pennsylvania PLT Steering Committee

Members to be listed once the committee is formed later in 2014

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I. About PLT

What is PLT?

Project Learning Tree (PLT) is an award-winning environmental education program designed for educators working with students from pre-kindergarten to twelfth grade. Through hands-on, interdisciplinary activities, PLT helps young people learn *how* to think – not *what* to think – about complex environmental issues. PLT can help address state and national standards. It provides the tools educators need to bring the environment into their classrooms and the students into the environment.

PLT helps students learn about the world around them, their place within that world, and their responsibility for it. Through its many hands-on activities, PLT helps students become:

- personally aware of their presence in the environment;
- personally aware of the multiple values of natural resources, including ecological, economic, cultural, and societal;
- better able to understand their impact on and responsibility to the environment;
- equipped with the skills and knowledge to make informed decisions regarding the management and use of the environment; and
- increasingly confident in their ability to take action on their decisions

PLT is designed to work in rural, suburban, and urban areas, and in formal and nonformal educational settings. PLT activities work both indoors and outdoors. The PLT activities emphasize conceptual learning and skill building and use effective, student-centered, instructional strategies, such as hands-on and cooperative learning.

At the heart of PLT is a set of activity guides for educators to use with their students. For those working with elementary students, the *PreK-8 Environmental Education Activity Guide* and *Energy & Society* program kit offer exciting and challenging activities. For those working with pre-school children, the *Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood* guide works to excite children's imagination and foster a sense of wonder. For those working with ninth through twelfth graders, there is a series of topic specific secondary modules. The PLT activity guides are not for sale, but are provided to educators when they participate in a PLT workshop. The exceptions are: the *Energy & Society* kit and although *Energy & Society* workshops are provided, the kit can be purchased through PLT's website as well, and the two online secondary modules: *Exploring Environmental Issues: Biodiversity* and *Exploring Environmental Issues: Focus on Risk-Biotechnology Supplement*

PLT promotes the *process* of education and advocates sound principles of teaching. The PLT materials encourage educators to provide students with opportunities to gather information, communicate, cooperate, assess values, solve problems, and use critical thinking.

Because many PLT activities are hands-on and invite students to apply their knowledge and skills, educators can use them as evidence of students' learning and practice for "performance-based" assessments, especially pertaining to thinking in terms of systems, civic participation, inquiry, and the arts.

PLT models quality environmental education and thus is balanced on values-sensitive topics. The activities and materials are designed to treat issues fairly and do not advocate any one particular point of view. PLT recognizes that people need information from a variety of sources in order to make their own informed decisions. **Hence, it is critical that workshop facilitators keep this in mind and practice this balanced perspective.**

PLT's Mission

PLT uses the forest as a "window on the world" to increase students' understanding of our complex environment; to stimulate critical and creative thinking; to develop the ability to make informed decisions on environmental issues; and to instill the confidence and commitment to take responsible action on behalf of the environment.

PLT's Goals

- Provide students with the awareness, appreciation, understanding, skills, and commitment to address environmental issues.
- Enable students to apply scientific processes and higher order thinking skills to resolve environmental problems.
- Help students acquire an appreciation and tolerance of diverse viewpoints on environmental issues, and develop attitudes and actions based on analysis and evaluation of the available information.
- Encourage creativity, originality, and flexibility to resolve environmental problems and issues.
- Inspire and empower students to become responsible, productive, and participatory members of society.

A Brief History of PLT

The PLT program began in the mid-1970s as a collaboration between the American Forest Institute (AFI), a forest products industry trade association dedicated to improving the management of America's forests, and the Western Regional Environmental Education Council (WREEC), a non-profit organization comprised of representatives from state departments of education and natural resources agencies from 13 western states.

The founders of PLT developed an effective environmental education program based on three goals. The first goal was to design an environmental education program that would gain the confidence of the education community - educators would have to like it, trust it, and use it. The second goal was to develop partnerships between public and private sectors that ensured the curriculum was balanced, fair, and accurate - and that the curriculum encouraged students to consider all sides and factors when making decisions about the environment. The third goal was to design a system of implementation for the program.

By making the materials only available through workshops, the founders were helping to ensure that the curriculum would be used effectively. Educators participate in workshops to learn how to use the materials effectively with their students and make them locally relevant.

The PLT materials were developed by a team of writers and were thoroughly tested and evaluated. Two activity guides were produced, one for K-6 grade educators and one for 7-12 grade educators. The first editions of these supplementary curriculum guides were published in 1976.

In 1982, AFI executed a licensing arrangement with the American Forest Foundation (AFF), which thereby became the co-sponsor with WREEC of PLT. In 1986, AFI was realigned with other industry associations and became the American Forest Council (AFC). AFC continued to administer PLT for AFF and WREEC. In 1993, AFC was realigned with other forest and paper industry associations. At that time, AFF became a wholly independent, publicly supported, 501(c)(3) non-profit education organization and took over all administration for PLT. Also in 1993, the PLT materials were extensively revised into a PreK-8 Activity Guide and topic-specific secondary modules. PLT's PreK-8 Environmental Education Activity Guide underwent its most major revision in late 2005 to address education reform and today's most pressing environmental issues. For example, new features include reading connections, technology connections, and differentiated instruction; new activities focus on invasive species and climate change. Secondary modules tailored to high school students have continued to be developed and include topics such as Forest Ecology, Forest Issues, Places We Live, Risk Assessment, Solid Waste, and Biodiversity.

Building on the successful model of PLT, WREEC formed a partnership in 1980 with the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies to develop Project WILD, a program similar to PLT which uses wildlife as a focus for teaching environmental principles. Using the successful PLT development and implementation model, Project WILD published a K-6 guide and 7-12 guide in 1983, and subsequently combined the guides into one volume in 1992. In 1989, WREEC partnered with Montana State University to form Project WET that in 1995 published a K-12 guide, a water and wetlands-based environmental education curriculum designed to promote the stewardship of water resources. Then, in 1996, in order to reflect a broader nationwide interest, WREEC changed its name to the Council for Environmental Educational (CEE) and restructured its board of directors and membership. CEE has primary responsibility for Project WILD. Project WET Foundation is now its own 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Today, Project Learning Tree is one of the most widely used preK-12 environmental education programs in the United States and abroad. PLT is available in all 50 states and the District of Columbia; several U.S. territories; and eleven other countries (Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Finland, Japan, Jordan, Mexico, the Philippines, Slovakia, and Sweden.) PLT curriculum has been translated into seven languages. For over ten years, Peace Corps volunteers worldwide have received training in PLT.

In each of the 50 states, PLT is implemented by sponsoring organizations through steering committees with representatives from state education, resource, and environmental agencies; business groups; universities; other non-profits; and preK-12 schools. In other countries, PLT partners with a non-governmental organization or government agency that shares PLT's mission, goals, and instructional strategies. International partners adapt, translate, and deliver a version of PLT for use in their country. At the national level, PLT's partners include Federal agencies (ranging from BLM, to EPA, to NOAA, to the USDA Forest Service), industry, environmental organizations, educators, and academics.

Thousands of people work together under the PLT umbrella to help young people learn the skills they will need to become responsible environmental decision makers. PLT has a nationwide network of nearly 70 PLT State Coordinators and more than 3,000 volunteer workshop facilitators. About 25,000 educators attend PLT professional development workshops each year. More than 500,000 educators have received training in how to use PLT. Although the exact figure is not known, literally millions of children have, as a PLT saying goes, "learned how to think, not what to think" about complex environmental issues through exposure to PLT.

Historical Timeline of PLT and Pennsylvania PLT

The 1970s

- 🌲 **1976** - PLT began when natural resource managers and educators from the American Forest Institute (now the American Forest Foundation) and Western Regional Environmental Education Council (now the Council of Environmental Education) formed a partnership to develop an unbiased, educationally sound program for elementary and secondary students and their teachers with the *Supplemental Curriculum Guide for Grades K-6* (with 82 lessons) and the *Supplemental Curriculum Guide for Grades 7-12* (with 78 lessons).
- 🌲 **1976** - The partners designed PLT to be shared through trained facilitators (educators, resource managers, or other interested people) who, in turn, train others in how to most effectively and efficiently use the curriculum and materials. The first workshops were held in 10 of the 13 states that made up the Western Regional Environmental Education Council.
- 🌲 **1977** - PLT comes to Pennsylvania and is sponsored by PA Department of Education.

The 1980s

- 🌲 **1980s** - PLT went international. Canada was the second country to join the PLT community. Now, educators in Canada, the U.S. Territories, Japan, Mexico, Sweden, Slovakia, China, Finland, Brazil, Jordan, and the Philippines use PLT. Materials have been translated and adapted for use in these countries.
- 🌲 **1987** - First PLT Coordinators Conference held in Menlo, California.
- 🌲 **1987** - The PA Bureau of Forestry joins the PA Department of Education as cosponsors of PLT in Pennsylvania.
- 🌲 **1987** - The PLT network got stronger when the first International PLT Coordinator's Conference was held.
- 🌲 **1989** - Pennsylvania State Parks' *Activities for Environmental Learning* is developed and incorporates several activities from PLT's *Supplemental Curriculum Guide for Grades K-6*.
- 🌲 **End of the 1980s** - PLT had reached 49 states.

The 1990s

- 🌳 **1990** - PLT launched a major, multi-year revision of the curriculum. More than 300 people participated in regional writing workshops and revision sessions to revamp the elementary and secondary curriculum. Another 300 educators participated in the pilot test, field test and formal evaluation of the materials. The PLT materials were revamped into PreK-8 and Secondary Modules
- 🌳 **1992** - The first PLT Reunions for Pennsylvania facilitators are held across the state.
- 🌳 **1993** - The new and revised *PreK-8 Environmental Education Activity Guide* (with 96 lessons) is released. Every year the guide is reprinted to meet demand and to provide opportunities for updates and revisions. The guide was then in its 11th edition.
- 🌳 **1993** - *GreenWorks!* was launched. This service-learning and community action program assists educators and students with developing action plans to improve their neighborhood environment through partnerships and grants.
- 🌳 **1994** - PLT had grown to all 50 states and the District of Columbia.
- 🌳 **1994** - First annual PLT Outstanding Educators Awards.
- 🌳 **1996** - To better address teachers and students at the secondary level, PLT created stand alone modules. The first module was *Exploring Environmental Issues: Focus on Forests*.
- 🌳 **1997** - Secondary modules *The Changing Forest: Forest Ecology* and *Exploring Environmental Issues: Municipal Solid Waste* are developed.
- 🌳 **1998** - PLT is correlated to National Curriculum Standards for Science.
- 🌳 **1998** - The secondary module: *Exploring Environmental Issues: Focus on Risk* is developed.
- 🌳 **1998** - PLT leaps into cyberspace with www.plt.org.

The 2000s

- 🌳 **2000** - PLT is correlated to National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies.
- 🌳 **2000** - The PA Department of Education in partnership with members of Pennsylvania's forest products industry develops the Pennsylvania-specific *Sustaining Penn's Woods* for middle school and junior high school students incorporating activities from PLT's *PreK-8 Environmental Activity Guide*, *Exploring Environmental Issues: Focus on Forests* and *The Changing Forest: Forest Ecology*. This boxed kit of activities uses the PLT design/format.
- 🌳 **2002** - The *PreK-8 Energy and Society Kit* is published. This curriculum uses hands-on activities, music, and dance to teach this critical topic.
- 🌳 **2004** - The *Earth & Sky* radio series partnership begins.
- 🌳 **2005** - PLT's *PreK-8 Environmental Education Activity Guide* underwent another major revision to address education reform and today's most pressing environmental issues.
- 🌳 **2006** - The premier of the secondary module, *Exploring Environmental Issues: Places We Live* teaching students to explore current and future community environmental issues.
- 🌳 **2006** - By the 30th anniversary there is a grassroots network of 3,000 active volunteers and state coordinators who have trained more than 500,000 educators. New workshops take place almost every week providing educators with the tools, training, and resources they need to bring the environment into their classrooms and their students into the environment.
- 🌳 **2008** - *Global Connection: Forests of the World* is introduced. Students investigate world forestry issues through activities in this module.

- 🌳 **2008** - The *GreenSchools!* program is launched with a grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service as part of its Learn and Serve America 2008 Grants program. The grant was awarded to the American Forest Foundation to infuse service-learning into Project Learning Tree. Once the school's green team completes a series of 5 investigations it is officially recognized as a Certified PLT Green School.
- 🌳 **2009** - Pennsylvania State Parks' *Pennsylvania Land Choices An Educational Guide* is developed and incorporates activities from PLT's *PreK-8 Environmental Education Activity Guide* and *Exploring Environmental Issues: Places We Live*.
- 🌳 **2009** - Educators and students step back from biodiversity issues and specific species to examine broader concepts and larger connections through the online *Exploring Environmental Issues: Biodiversity* secondary module.
- 🌳 **2009** - PLT is correlated to Pennsylvania's Curriculum Standards for Environment and Ecology.

The 2010s

- 🌳 **2010** - *Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood* debuted.
- 🌳 **2011** - Wildly popular and a great resource for children ages 3-6, *Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood* is awarded Learning[®] Magazine 2011 Teachers' ChoiceSM Award!
- 🌳 **2011** - The newly revised *Exploring Environmental Issues: Focus on Forests* secondary module is released (This module combines activities from the former *Forest Ecology* and *Focus on Forests* developed in the 1990s). This module's activities provide an opportunity for hands-on study of forest resources while addressing concepts in biology, civics, ecology, economics, forest management, and other subject areas.
- 🌳 **2011** - The online secondary module: *Exploring Environmental Issues: Focus on Risk Biotechnology Supplement* is released. This 3 activity module was created as a supplement to the *Exploring Environmental Issues: Focus on Risk* curriculum and is designed for high school and community college educators in the fields of Biology, Environmental Science, Social Studies, and Agriculture.
- 🌳 **January 2013** - PLT Pennsylvania changes sponsorship and is now cosponsored by Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators (PAEE).
- 🌳 **2013** - A series of PLT Reunions for Pennsylvania facilitators are held across the state to update and reconnect with the current facilitators.

The PLT Materials

At the heart of PLT are the supplementary elementary and secondary curriculum materials, which offer exciting and challenging activities that focus on the total environment. Below are descriptions of the materials PLT offers to educators.

Early Childhood Education:

Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood

The *Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood* guide took 10 of the activities from the PreK-8 guide, developed an additional activity and added a variety of new experiences for the young learner. The guide integrates nature-based exploration, art, literature, math, music and movement, and outdoor play into early childhood education programs. The activities encourage the children to explore the senses, the seasons, and neighborhood trees. An accompanying music CD features fourteen songs from children's musician Bill Brennan. The guide provides an introduction to environmental education at a key developmental period in children's lives.

Elementary and Middle Education:

PreK-8 Environmental Education Activity Guide

PLT's *PreK-8 Environmental Education Activity Guide* contains ninety six hands-on interdisciplinary activities on such topics as water and air quality, ecology, climate change, urban environments, and recycling. The guide is designed so that an educator can use a single activity or many activities over the course of a quarter or year.

Energy & Society

PLT's Energy & Society program kit helps students in grades PreK-8 learn about their relationship with energy and investigate the environmental issues related to energy's role in society. The kit includes: *Energy & Society Activity Guide*, *Energy & Me Music CD*, *Energy & Me Music and Dance DVD*, and *Energy & Society* posters. The *Energy & Society* kit can be obtained at a PLT workshop or purchased directly from the national PLT program. Information on current costs is on the PLT website.

Billy B Sings About Trees CD

PLT and well known children's performing artist and songwriter Bill Brennan have teamed together to produce this CD. The CD is all about trees with nineteen songs that help to teach children about the value of our woodlands through fun and entertaining music.

Secondary Education:

PLT's interdisciplinary secondary modules are intended for grades 9-12, but can be adapted for other audiences such as middle school students, entry level college classes or adult community groups. They encompass key concepts from social science, sciences, humanities, and math. Modules currently available are:

Exploring Environmental Issues: Focus on Forests

This module is designed to foster student understanding of and appreciation for the forested lands throughout North America. It includes nine activities for hands-on study of forest resources while addressing concepts in biology, civic, ecology, economic, forest management and other subject areas.

Global Connections: Forests of the World

Developed by PLT in partnership with the World Forestry Center this module includes nine activities and allows students to apply scientific processes and higher order thinking skills while investigating world forestry issues and conducting service-learning action projects. Guide includes *Forests of the World* poster and *Global Ecological Zones* map.

Exploring Environmental Issues: Places We Live

This module is a place-based education tool to help create a bond between young citizens and their communities. The eight activities allow students to explore current and future community environmental issues enabling them to make informed decisions about those issues.

Exploring Environmental Issues: Focus on Risk

This module includes eight hands-on activities designed for students to analyze, explore, discover and learn about risk assessment, risk communication, risk perception, and risk management. There are also three special topics to encourage students to apply their knowledge to real life risk issues. Critical thinking, problem solving and decision making are emphasized throughout the module.

Exploring Environmental Issues: Municipal Solid Waste

This module includes eight activities that use hands-on experiences to show interrelationships among waste generation, natural resource use and disposal to guide students through waste management strategies and solutions. These activities provide students with the necessary tools to make informed decisions and choices on waste management issues.

Exploring Environmental Issues: Biodiversity (available online)

Developed by PLT in partnership with the World Wildlife Fund, the three activities in this 60 page module allow students to learn that decisions about growth and development, energy use and water quality, and even human health, all rest to some extent on perspectives about biodiversity.

Exploring Environmental Issues: Focus on Risk-Biotechnology Supplement (available online)
Designed for high school and community college educators in the fields of Biology, Environmental Science, Social Studies and Agriculture, this three activity module was created as a supplement to the *Exploring Environmental Issues: Focus on Risk* module. A special effort was made to construct the activities to support instruction in AP Biology, AP Environmental Science and AP Human Geography.

Additional Resources:

GreenWorks!

This environmental service-learning grant program of PLT blends service activities with academic curriculum. PLT provides grant guidelines and a guidebook on-line. The guidebook shares practical tips for getting a *GreenWorks!* project up and running. By participating in a PLT workshop, educators meet one of the criteria to apply for a *GreenWorks!* grant. This competitive grant program accepts proposals twice a year—in April and September. See the PLT website for more information.

Green Schools!

This nationwide program inspires students to take personal responsibility for improving the environment at their school, at home, and in their community. Students, teachers, and school staff receive tools, training, and resources for student-led Green Teams to create healthier schools – and save money. PLT *GreenSchools!* helps improve students' academic performance in science, technology, engineering, and math, develops students' critical thinking skills, and grows student leaders.

Earth & Sky Correlations

PLT teamed up with the *Earth & Sky* radio program to combine the power of radio, the internet, and PLT. *Earth & Sky* is a successful short format science radio program heard by millions of listeners throughout the U.S. and abroad that highlights the wonders of science and nature through daily radio shows. The *Earth & Sky* radio shows have been correlated directly to PLT activities to help enhance teachers' use of the radio shows and PLT materials. Shows and topics that correlate to PLT PreK–12 activities can be identified on the *Earth & Sky* website by the PLT logo. Along with PLT correlations, these *Earth & Sky* radio shows contain a list of additional resources that have been compiled by PLT, including background materials, supplementary resources, related web links, suggested speakers, and field tour sites. Use of the *Earth & Sky* shows can enhance the teaching of PLT activities by connecting educators with this integrated multimedia educational experience that provides access to accurate, reliable, and understandable scientific research and data. Some ways that educators might use the radio shows include: an engager to a PLT activity; a homework assignment to introduce concepts and provoke questions; or a follow-up piece to reinforce or build upon concepts covered in a PLT activity. For more information, go to www.plt.org and click on Special Initiatives/Earth & Sky or go to www.earthsky.org and click on Teachers.

Reproduction of PLT Materials

Please note that all PLT curriculum materials are **protected under copyright laws**. The Student Pages may be copied for educational use in conjunction with a PLT activity. In addition, the one-page *Connecting Kids to Nature Family Activities* is a free download of modified activities from the PreK-8 guide that may be copied. No other reproduction of PLT materials is allowed without written permission. All requests for permission must be submitted to the American Forest Foundation. See the inside front cover of each guide for more information. For reprint or adaptation guidelines, see the PLT website under “Curriculum.”

Copyright rules specific to the online *Exploring Environmental Issues: Biodiversity* and *Exploring Environmental Issues: Focus on Risk-Biotechnology Supplement* secondary modules can be viewed at the PLT website.

PLT’s Conceptual Framework

PLT’s curriculum materials are developed with a conceptual framework serving as its foundation. The conceptual framework is arranged around five major themes:

- **Diversity** -demonstrating the wide array of habitats, societies, technologies, and cultures
- **Interrelationships** -highlighting ecological, technological, and social-cultural systems as interactive and interdependent
- **Systems** -teaching how environmental, technological, and social systems are interconnected
- **Structure and Scale** -demonstrating how technologies, societal institutions, and components of natural and human-built environments vary
- **Patterns of Change** -showing how structures and systems change over time

Each theme includes the areas of Environment, Resource Management & Technology, and Society & Culture. PLT activities integrate the five themes within science, language arts, social studies, math, art, music, and physical education.

PLT’s conceptual framework can be found in the PreK-8 Guide and in each of the secondary modules. The conceptual framework lets the users of this program know what kinds of knowledge students can expect to acquire while participating in PLT activities. Without a conceptual framework, the activities in the PreK-8 Guide and secondary modules have no specific direction. The framework provides the structure, direction, and purpose for the activities. Though a conceptual framework is provided, formal educators, in particular, may want to develop their own frameworks based on their school’s curricula. Use the PLT Lesson Planning Worksheet in Appendix D to help educators connect their curricula to PLT activities and local resources.

Each PLT activity lists concepts from the framework that are emphasized. Activities can be grouped as thematic, conceptual, or storyline units. (Suggested storylines are provided in the appendix of the PreK-8 Guide.) Activities can also be used individually to teach a particular topic or to reinforce a concept listed. Educators may choose to add other concepts to an activity by using variations or by providing a different emphasis.

Although the PLT curriculum contains in-depth information on specific topics, it is not designed to be an all-inclusive or comprehensive curriculum. Teachers are encouraged to fill in the gaps with content that relates to their community, expertise, or interests, and/or that addresses specific state standards.

PLT Teaching Strategies

PLT activities reflect a variety of “best practice” teaching strategies. They emphasize constructivist learning theory, the whole language approach, inquiry-based teaching, and cooperative learning strategies.

The **constructivist theory of learning** is based on the principle that students construct new understandings by combining previous understandings with new discoveries. PLT activities are designed using a constructivist approach. Each activity guides the student through a process that begins with awareness, moves students toward understanding, enables them to challenge preconceived notions, and motivates them to seek constructive avenues for environmental action. For example, step one in the activity is designed to create student awareness and find out what students already know about the topic. It serves as the “hook” to develop their interest. Step two develops their knowledge and skills. Step three challenges their preconceived notions about the topic, helps them come to consensus, or builds new knowledge. Finally, step four encourages them and provides ideas on how they can take positive action regarding the new information and knowledge they have gained on this topic. The final step may also show how they can apply this new learning to other situations.

Using this technique, PLT teachers can guide their students toward new discovery and scientific understanding while helping them develop critical thinking and creative problem solving skills. See Chapter VI for more information on Constructivist Teaching. The Biological Science Curriculum Study (BSCS) developed an instructional model for constructivism, called the “**Five Es**”. The five Es are: Engage, Explore, Explain, Elaborate, and Evaluate. This model for learning is now being used in some textbooks and by educators to support the learner’s need to construct their own understanding of new ideas.

PLT also incorporates the **whole language** approach. Whole language is a method of teaching reading and writing that emphasizes learning whole words and phrases by encountering them in everyday contexts and books. Students frequently engage in writing and oral language activities related to experiential learning. PLT supports whole language instruction by engaging students in meaningful reading, writing, and communication experiences within a relevant and meaningful context. In addition, relevant literature books (both fiction and nonfiction) are listed in each PLT activity in the PreK-8 Guide.

An **inquiry-based approach** to learning promotes the development of such skills as identifying problems, developing relevant questions, determining desired outcomes, selecting possible solutions, testing solutions, and evaluating outcomes. PLT activities encourage this type of skill building.

PLT also emphasizes **cooperative learning**, a strategy in which students work together in small groups to achieve common goals. While helping students develop collaboration and communication skills, cooperative learning also promotes the equality of all students by encouraging them to work with each other to complete projects.

Using those approaches, teachers will find that PLT activities encourage learners through the process of awareness, understanding, challenge, motivation, and action using active involvement and hands-on experiences.

Curriculum Development and Revision Process

To ensure that PLT supports the needs of educators, PLT uses an extensive multi-layered curriculum development and evaluation process to guide the creation and revision of its materials. The process includes research, surveys, writing workshops, and reviews with educators and resource professionals; revisions based on pilot testing and field testing in the classroom; and formal evaluation by independent consultants.

The 1993 edition of the PreK-8 Guide began with a survey of more than 50,000 teachers, environmental educators, teams of scientists, natural resource managers and technical specialists. More than 300 educators participated in writing workshops and editing sessions. Another 300 educators participated in formative and summative evaluations.

Beginning in 2003, PLT again embarked on a revision process to improve its curriculum materials. During the three-year process, focus groups of classroom teachers, curriculum specialists, non-formal educators, natural resource managers, and university faculty reviewed and revised PLT activities. Writing teams gathered the information and integrated the new materials into the guide. The new PreK-8 Guide, first published in 2006, includes the following:

- strengthened teacher support for differentiated instruction
- strengthened reading connections
- improved assessments
- technology connections
- new activities on invasive species and climate change

Please see “*Cutting-Edge Environmental Education*” in the introduction of the PreK-8 Guide for a detailed description of each of these improvements.

Evaluation of PLT Materials

The PLT materials have undergone extensive evaluation to determine their effectiveness with students. The Research Commission of the North American Association for Environmental Education conducted a summative evaluation in 1994 of Project Learning Tree. The evaluation consisted of both traditional pre-test/intervention/post-test procedures and alternative assessment techniques. All activities in the PreK-8 Environmental Education Activity Guide were evaluated. A total of 240 teachers and 5,000 students in the U.S. and Canada who used PLT over a period of 12 months participated in the research.

The evaluation confirmed increased knowledge and positive attitudinal growths among students exposed to PLT. In addition, teachers who had completed at least one PLT teacher workshop, and who implemented the PLT activities as intended, were more likely to observe knowledge gains and attitudinal change in their students. This appeared to be particularly true when students were exposed to a series of PLT activities over a relatively short period of time.

The study also showed that short-term exposure to PLT produced positive, long-term effects when it comes to improving environmental knowledge and attitudes. Researchers further concluded that PLT increased knowledge in surprisingly little time. In fact, the average knowledge growth for students in grades 2-8 who were exposed to PLT for two to three weeks was no less than the equivalent of seven months of (normal, regular, traditional) teaching.

The secondary modules have also undergone formal evaluations with similar results. Dr. Louis Iozzi, at Rutgers University-Cook College, evaluated the *Focus on Forests*, *Forest Ecology*, and *Municipal Solid Waste* modules. Christina Gomez-Schmidt and Dr. Michaela Zint at the University of Michigan evaluated the *Focus on Risk* module.

In addition to the PLT-directed evaluations, the NAAEE and the California Department of Education each reviewed the PLT materials through their respective curriculum/materials evaluation projects. PLT was given excellent evaluations by both organizations.

Please visit the PLT website for more information on PLT evaluations.

Sources:

- California Department of Education. *Communities: A Review of Curricula on Natural and Built Environments*. Environmental Education Compendia Series. 2002
- North American Association for Environmental Education. *Project Learning Tree National Field Study*. Dr. Tom Marcinkowski, Florida Institute of Technology and Dr. Lou Iozzi, Rutgers University. December 1994. (An executive summary of this research can be found at www.plt.org under “About PLT – Evaluation.”)
- North American Association for Environmental Education. *The Environmental Education Collection: A Review of Resources for Educators – Volume One*. 1997.
- North American Association for Environmental Education. *Resource Review*. <http://www.naaee.org/programs-and-initiatives/resource-review>. 2007

PLT’s Administration and Partners

Project Learning Tree is nationally administered by the American Forest Foundation (AFF) and is housed within the Center for Environmental Learning. AFF was chartered in 1982 to develop and administer programs that encourage the long-term stewardship of the environment and natural resources. AFF is a 501(c)(3) charitable education foundation supported by grants from individuals, foundations, government agencies, and corporations. PLT's partners include the Bureau of Land Management, Council for Environmental Education (CEE), Earth & Sky, National Association of Conservation Districts, National Association of Professional Forestry Schools and Colleges, National Association of State Foresters, National Audubon Society, North American Association for Environmental Education, Peace Corps, Rainforest Alliance, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Society of American Foresters, World Forestry Center, and World Wildlife Fund.

From the beginning, PLT has been administered under the direction of a broad-based national Education Operating Committee that brings together all the PLT partners. The committee includes representatives from state coordinators, national PLT sponsors, education, industry, and other partners. A list of PLT Education Operating Committee members is provided in the “Acknowledgments” section of the PreK-8 Guide and on the PLT website.

The Project Learning Tree national staff is responsible for the “behind the scenes” component of the PLT program. This includes the development and implementation of all curriculum materials, supporting materials, communication materials, and special projects. The PLT national office is located in AFF headquarters at 1111 19th Street, NW, Suite 780, Washington, DC 20036. The PLT website provides a list of current national staff and their contact information.

In Pennsylvania, funding for PLT comes from a variety of sources through the co-sponsors of the program. DCNR provides funding through their operational budget, EE Fund (a percentage of environmental fine money that must be spent on environmental education) and oil and gas money. PAEE provides funding through grants and sponsorships.

Related Programs

Building on the success of PLT, the Council for Environmental Education (CEE) – formerly known as the Western Regional Environmental Education Council (WREEC) – developed a similar program in 1980 that uses wildlife as a focus for teaching environmental principles. This program, Project WILD, has also been successful in the United States and abroad. In 1989, CEE partnered with The Watercourse at University of Montana to co-sponsor the development of Project WET, an environmental education program designed to promote the stewardship of water resources.

Awards and Endorsements

In 1985, the prestigious President’s Citation Program “Crystal Award” was presented to the American Forest Foundation by President Ronald Reagan. This award recognized PLT as an outstanding private sector initiative. Project Learning Tree has also received other awards and recognition from the:

- USDA Forest Service
- North American Association for Environmental Education
- National Arbor Day Foundation
- Conservation Education Association
- National Wildlife Federation
- National Association for Industry-Education Cooperation
- American Society of Association Executives
- Keep America Beautiful
- Renew America
- Solid Waste Association of America
- Parents’ Choice
- Children’s Music Web Awards

For an up-to-date list of awards presented to the National PLT program, check the PLT website under About PLT/Awards

Correlations to State and National Standards

Project Learning Tree's PreK-8 Guide and secondary module activities have been correlated to many state and national standards. These correlations can be found on PLT's website. The national correlations include:

- National Science Standards
- National Social Studies Standards
- Girl Scouts
- Boy Scouts
- NAAEE's *Excellence in EE Guidelines for Learning* (PreK–12)

The Pennsylvania state correlations can be found on the PA PLT website at: <http://dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/education/projectlearningtree/index.htm> as well as on PLT's national website.



II. What is a PLT Workshop

Workshop Goals

The main goals of any PLT Professional Development Workshop are:

- To encourage educators to approach learning and teaching from an ecological and multi-disciplinary perspective.
- To prepare educators to use PLT materials by modeling a sample of PLT activities and teaching strategies.
- To show educators how they can incorporate PLT into their current and future lesson plans and curriculum.
- To increase educators' confidence in teaching environmental education concepts.
- To enrich educators' knowledge of content included in PLT lessons.
- To create a setting in which educators can meet other professionals in their region interested in environmental education.
- To provide a fun and motivating forum that encourages educators to enjoy their own learning process.

The workshop protocol has been used throughout PLT's history because it has been proven that educators will more readily use the materials if they see for themselves how PLT will enhance what they are already teaching. In the workshop setting, educators experience the modeling of various activities, and consider how to adapt activities to fit their own curricula and styles. In some workshops, participants select activities to present to each other in small groups. During the activity wrap-ups, where attendees are encouraged to share ideas, participants learn from each other. Participants also get to observe different teaching styles and exchange creative ideas.

Workshop Design

The workshop should show participants how to use PLT to teach science, math, language arts, social sciences, art, health, and even physical education. Non-formal educators such as environmental educators, outdoor school teachers, interpreters, docents, homeschoolers, or youth organization leaders should be shown how PLT can be used as a resource of activities to enhance their work with both students and adults.

In addition to introducing the PLT materials, the workshop should model effective teaching strategies and encourage educators to explore new ways of teaching. Wherever possible, use hands-on instructional methods and help participants work out any problems they foresee using these methods with their students.

The entire workshop structure should follow the "AKCA" (Awareness, Knowledge, Challenge and Consensus, Action) model, which is the model that individual PLT activities are structured around. The AKCA model leads students from awareness, to knowledge, to challenge, and finally to action.

When applied to the workshop setting, the model will lead the educators from an awareness of PLT, to adding to what they know about PLT, to challenging them to experience PLT, and finally to them actively leading activities and exploring ways to use the activities with their students. See Chapter VI for ideas on additional educational topics to model and discuss.

When designing your workshop, include information on PLT's initiative, "Every Student Learns Outside." For more information on this topic, visit www.learnoutside.org

Time Requirements

When planning your workshop, keep in mind that educators must attend a workshop that is **at least four hours** long to receive the *Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood*, **at least six hours** long to receive the *PreK-8 Environmental Education Activity Guide* and **at least two hours** long to receive a secondary module (*Focus on Forests*, *Global Connections: Forests of the World*, *Places We Live*, *Focus on Risk*, *Municipal Solid Waste*, *Exploring Environmental Issues: Biodiversity* and *Biotechnology*) See Appendix D "Facilitator and Workshop Requirements Checklist".

If you are also a *Project WILD* or *Project WET* facilitator, you may wish to combine one of these two programs with PLT into one workshop.

- When facilitating a combined workshop for early childhood (such as PLT *Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood* and Project Wild *Growing Up Wild*) **at least three hours** must be dedicated to PLT activities. (total workshop time is 6 hours)
- When facilitating a combined workshop for preK-8 (such as PLT *PreK-8 Environmental Education Activity Guide* and Project Wild *K-12 Curriculum and Activity Guide*) **at least four hours** must be dedicated to PLT activities. (total workshop time is 8 hours)
- If you are combining PLT, *Project WILD*, and *Project WET*, each program should be **allocated 4 hours each** (making the workshop 12 contact hours in length).
- Each secondary module requires **at least two hours** and can be facilitated as a stand-alone workshop however modules are best as part of a longer theme-related workshop.

Workshop Fees

PLT workshops can be conducted at no charge to participants or for a nominal fee. Fees vary from state to state and generally cover the costs of snacks, special materials provided, meeting room fees, and any other direct costs you or the sponsoring organization incur. To determine appropriate fees, please follow the guidelines from your agency or organization. You are encouraged to co-facilitate workshops in order to offer the best accommodations to your workshop participants.

- If working through DCNR, facilitators must follow the *Charging for Programs Policy* that can be found on the state parks intranet site. Please contact the DCNR/PLT Coordinator for specific information on collecting fees.
- If working through PAEE, note that all workshops will be charged a \$25.00 per participant fee. The PAEE/PLT Coordinator will send an invoice for participant fee to the facilitator. Facilitators assume all responsibility for collecting fees.

If academic credit is provided, the college or university may require additional fees or tuition.

PLT Facilitator Responsibilities

As a facilitator, you set the stage for learning and encourage participants to explore and develop as professionals. A facilitator serves as a guide, helping workshop participants gain a better understanding about the PLT program, its use, and potential impacts on students' environmental awareness and understanding. Your job is to help people feel comfortable in the group, to listen as much or more than you talk, and to help others understand what they have learned.

The PLT facilitator is responsible for:

- Structuring a positive, hands-on experience that allows each member of the group to participate in activities, and so far as possible, achieve his or her reason for being at the workshop.
- Modeling the PLT philosophy of “awareness” (what is PLT, and what does it contain) to “action” (participants make plans for use of PLT, then go home and use it). See the previous Workshop Design section for more information on “Awareness to Action.”
- Motivating (through an enthusiastic presentation) and assisting the participants in understanding how they can integrate PLT into their teaching.

The role of the Project Learning Tree workshop leader is to help the participants make their own observations, interpretations, and conclusions about PLT, and to assist the group in discovering and realizing the potential PLT holds for them.

A PLT workshop facilitator also must put his or her biases and interests aside. This is particularly difficult since many of the issues we talk about and many of the PLT activities we work with touch important aspects in our own lives. For more ideas on this topic, see “**Two Hats**” in appendix of the PreK-8 Guide.

Workshops

Once you are certified as a PLT facilitator, we hope that you will be willing to plan and conduct workshops each year. To stay current as a Pennsylvania PLT facilitator, you are expected to **plan and conduct a minimum of 4 educator workshops every 4 years. At least one of these workshops must be a PLT or PLT-related workshop** (the other workshops can be other “Projects” or supplemental curriculum workshops). We encourage you to team up with other facilitators and resource specialists and we welcome alternative workshop styles.

See Appendix C for sample agendas that illustrate the wide variety of workshop styles.

Other Ways to Become Involved

In addition to conducting workshops, consider becoming involved in PLT in other areas such as promotion, networking, and recognition. For example, you might:

- Promote PLT at conferences, fairs, and other gatherings.
- Provide 1-2 hour sessions to introduce participants to PLT. This can be done at a conference, local school board or teachers' meeting, or for a service-learning group or after-school program.
- Serve as a PLT resource in your region.
- Help find participants for workshops and promote media coverage of PLT events.
- Serve as a mentor and help other new leaders become certified as PLT facilitators. Contact the State Coordinator for more information.
- Enrich your state PLT program by sharing your ideas, techniques, resources, and other information in your facilitator newsletter, and in the national PLT newsletter, *the Branch*. Send your ideas to your State Coordinator.
- Share your recommendations to your State Coordinator for nomination of individuals and organizations for annual PLT recognition/awards.
- Follow-up with a team of teachers in a particular school or district, about integrating PLT activities across grade levels.
- Support a particular teacher in writing a GreenWorks! Grant proposal, by offering feedback or a letter of support.
- As a certified PLT facilitator, you may be asked to make a presentation to a local school board, teachers' meeting, or other informal gathering. Please see the sample agenda below. Feel free to alter the agenda to meet your needs.

Sample Agenda for 1–2 Hour Presentation

1. Introduction
You might have people introduce themselves (if necessary), and have each person name one thing that an environmental education program, like PLT, could provide for them. Make a list of their needs (you may want to refer to this later).
2. Distribute PLT's promotional brochure, and briefly describe the referenced guides, programs, and resources. Alternatively, you might show a PowerPoint on PLT. (Check with your State Coordinator for PLT PowerPoints.)
3. Do a carefully selected PLT activity that targets the group you are working with.
4. Give an overview of other selected PLT activities.
5. Refer to the needs they expressed earlier and discuss how PLT may fit their particular needs.
6. If time permits, you may want to do another PLT activity.
7. Explain how they can participate in or schedule a PLT workshop.



III. Planning and Conducting a PLT Workshop

Most of the work for a successful workshop is done before the workshop day. The following are suggestions for planning and conducting your workshop to ensure success, as well as information about a few essential post-workshop tasks. See the “Workshop Planning Checklist” that follows for a summary of all these tasks.

Arranging the Workshop

PLT workshops generally happen in one of two ways. Sometimes a sponsoring organization identifies a need and then arranges with a facilitator to plan and present the workshop. More often, a PLT facilitator decides to do a workshop and arranges it through a sponsoring organization or workshop facility.

To arrange a workshop, begin by checking with your school, school district, teaching colleges or universities, county office of education, or other organization to find out whether they would be interested in sponsoring a workshop. Other possibilities include contacting local nature centers, county parks, other agencies, or conservation-oriented organizations (such as an urban forestry organization, Girl Scouts, or 4-H) and gaining their interest in sponsoring a workshop.

Although sponsors are not required, some workshop sites require proof of liability and accident insurance before you can hold a workshop there. *PLT cannot cover facilitators with insurance for workshops.* Therefore, we recommend that you find a sponsor for your workshop that can provide you with the necessary insurance protection.

Co-Facilitating

We highly recommend that you co-facilitate your workshop, especially if you are a new workshop facilitator. You may co-facilitate with one or two others who attended your facilitator training or with an experienced PLT facilitator (lists of facilitators are available from your State Coordinator). If possible, you might co-facilitate with a resource specialist trained in PLT (for more information, see Inviting a Resource Specialist that follows).

Co-facilitating has many advantages, both for you as the facilitator and for the participants. It is helpful to have someone to share ideas with, to help plan the agenda and your delivery, to help gather necessary materials, and to share the responsibility for presenting activities and for fielding questions. Participants will have the advantage of seeing varying teaching styles and will learn from presenters with different areas of expertise. In addition, if one facilitator has an emergency, the other facilitator(s) can cover and the workshop will not have to be cancelled.

If you do work with a co-facilitator, be as explicit as possible with each other *before* the workshop. It is important to identify what each of your roles will be. You may find it useful for each of you to write your answers to the questions in the “Co-Facilitating that Works” chart below and discuss your responses. This cooperative planning early on will allow for smooth transitions between facilitators and will also enhance your working relationship.

Co-Facilitating That Works:

As you begin to plan a workshop with a co-facilitator, consider these questions and share your answers with each other to help clarify your roles.

- For which parts of the workshop would you like to be responsible? Which parts would you like your co-facilitator to handle?
- What would you really like to include in the workshop because it is important to the targeted audience, because it worked well in other workshops, or for another reason?
- How will you make transitions between each of your presentations?
- If necessary, how will you adjust your agenda?

Workshop Planning Checklist

Planning for the Workshop

- Find someone to co-facilitate the workshop.
- Request permission from your school system or organization (if necessary).
- Select and reserve workshop site for the date, time, and number of hours needed.
- Submit workshop plan to district or college for approval (if necessary).
- Submit workshop proposal and planning form to State Coordinator at least four weeks prior to the workshop date. This allows enough time for your Coordinator to process the PLT guide orders.
- Develop and distribute promotional materials such as flyers, pre-registration forms, posters, or articles at least four weeks prior to the workshop date.
- Develop workshop design, taking into consideration:
 - the audience
 - workshop objectives
 - constraints (for example, space or time)
 - strategies for overcoming constraints
 - critical workshop elements (see information later in this chapter)
 - requirements for credit (district, college, or university), if offered
 - materials and equipment needed for activities
- Outline workshop agenda and plan schedule.
- If possible, contact/invite a resource specialist.
- If planned, arrange for refreshments and snacks.
- Gather support materials such as AV equipment, paper, pens, and art materials.
- (Optional) Send confirmations and maps to those registered.
- (Optional) If possible, visit workshop site to check things out.

At the Workshop Site

- Set up workshop space (if possible, the afternoon or evening before).
- Check to be sure equipment is working.
- Locate restrooms, light switches, plugs, and easiest access to the outdoors.
- Select appropriate areas to conduct activities.
- During the workshop, orient participants to the restrooms and refreshments.
- Provide a brief overview of the agenda, including when breaks and lunch will be taken.
- At the end of the workshop, be sure each participant fills out a Participant Survey Form (evaluation).
- Distribute PLT certificates.

Post-Workshop Tasks

- Complete the Facilitator Cover Sheet and send it to your State Coordinator along with the completed Participant Survey Forms.
- (Optional) Send thank you letters with a list of workshop participants, addresses, and phone numbers. Remind participants of any follow-up meeting.

Offering Credit

Offering credit can be a big incentive to potential workshop participants. If you are affiliated with a college or university, you may be able to offer college credit. If you are interested in doing this, you will need to make all the arrangements with the school. Depending on the school's specific requirements, your workshop may need to be longer than is required by PLT (usually a total of ten to fifteen hours) and participants may need to complete a written assignment. Also, participants will usually need to pay a fee to the college or university for the credit.

You may also be able to arrange for continuing education credit for workshop participants through your county or state office of education or school district office. In some states, PLT is actually a provider of credit. In Pennsylvania, DCNR is an Act 48 hour provider for PLT.

In order for DCNR to maintain provider status, all DCNR facilitators must:

- Send in the official Act 48 sign-in sheet no later than 15 days after the workshop to Carissa Longo (state parks) or Jean Devlin (state forests)
- Keep all workshop records for 7 years which includes workshop flyer/advertisement, workshop sign-in sheets with the Professional Personal Identification Number (PPID) and workshop evaluations
- Provide a record (ex. Certificate of Completion) to all participants with the course name and number of Act 48 hours received

Foresters and other resource professionals participating in the Society of American Foresters' (SAF) "Continuing Forestry Education and Professional Development Recognition Program (CFE)" may be able to earn credit by participating in a PLT workshop. Contact your Coordinator for the name of the SAF person in your area to verify CFE credit. Be sure you know if it is graduate or undergraduate credit that your participants need. Also, volunteers serving as members of the national service program known as "AmeriCorps" have received service hours as part of their educational plan.

Deciding Where and When

Two important considerations you will need to keep in mind when designing your workshop are the workshop site and time frame. Everything you do during the workshop will depend to some degree on these two factors.

Workshop Site

Successful workshops have been conducted in a variety of settings - from school sites to city parks, from museum classrooms to wooded retreats. Before selecting a site for the workshop, think about its advantages and disadvantages and compare these to the workshop goals. For example, a workshop at an environmental education center in a regional park can acquaint teachers with resources available to them in their area, while one held at the school site might help teachers see how PLT activities can be used in their own classroom and will show them that the environment is wherever we are!

Think about ways you might overcome any disadvantages or constraints the space presents. For example, a retreat location may be wonderful for the spirit, but consider ways to include activities and discussion that help teachers relate to the day-to-day classroom setting.

A meeting room can help participants focus on the day's task, but can be stifling for nature lovers; plan a way to get participants outside for at least part of the workshop.

Wherever you plan to conduct the workshop, be sure to reserve the facility well in advance. Some facilities may book up quickly.

Workshop Length and Time

A PLT workshop needs to be at least four hours long for participants to receive the *Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood*, at least six hours long for participants to receive the *PreK-8 Environmental Education Activity Guide*, and at least two hours for a secondary module. You have a lot of flexibility in terms of how this time is distributed. Any variation in minimum hours will need pre-approval from the State Coordinator.

For a six-hour PreK-8 workshop, you may wish to conduct one day-long workshop. Participants may be more focused during a one-day session.

For the six-hour or longer workshops, there are advantages to two or more, shorter sessions spaced over a two- to four-week period. One possibility is to have an after school workshop for an hour or two, and concentrate on activities that fit into the teachers' curriculum. Between sessions, you may ask participants to conduct with their students the activities you presented during the first workshop session (or other activities they select). At the following workshop session, they can share what happened, and discuss adaptations or extensions they developed. Participants are also able to review the PLT activity guides and prepare additional activities for classroom use or for presenting to other participants at the next workshop session. This multiple session format provides a wonderful opportunity for the participants to try out activities while they are excited about PLT. If you decide to use this format, be sure that participants have an incentive and are accountable for attending *all* sessions. For the after school format, you may want to provide high-energy snacks or dinner.

For shorter workshops (either an Early Childhood workshop or a secondary module workshop), it is best to hold them in one time block.

The secondary module workshops must be a minimum of two hours, with an additional hour added for each module introduced at the workshop. If possible, arrange to include a field experience for participants or provide a guest speaker to complement the PLT secondary module materials. See Appendix C for sample agendas, and Appendix D for additional workshop strategies and "Facilitator and Workshop Requirements Checklist".

Publicizing Your Workshop

Pre-workshop publicity announces your workshop to those who may be interested in attending. See Appendix B for sample publicity materials.

Effective publicity gives potential participants enough information in advance so they know what to expect, including:

- a brief description of PLT
- the goals of the workshop and key concepts to be covered
- who will be conducting the workshop
- the sponsors
- the date, time, and location (including a map and directions, if necessary)
- if the workshop is two or more sessions, that attendance is required at all sessions
- the registration fee, if any (see “Workshop Fees” in Chapter II)
- whether credit is available
- what participants will receive: a PLT activity guide
- the materials they receive are correlated to state academic standards
- contact person, including address and phone number for further information
- appropriate clothing (for example, dress for the outdoors)
- whether a bag lunch is needed
- registration deadline or cutoff date

Use your imagination to create a flyer, poster, or announcement that conveys this information (Helpful Hints are included below). Use whatever format works well in your setting. Whenever possible, make use of existing communication channels within your organization or within your school, district, or county education system. For example, announcements can be sent by mail or fax to local schools (addressed to the principal or curriculum supervisor), or can be advertised on teacher workroom bulletin boards. You may want to include the workshop on the county or district calendar. In addition, the PLT national website offers a spot for posting state workshops (your State Coordinator will post your workshop to this site).

As with most advertising, word-of-mouth is usually best. For example, if you are inviting educators from more than one school site, ask one person at each site to help spread the word and send extra announcements for that person to share. Many department chairs and lead teachers are willing to forward workshop announcements by email to groups of teachers they commonly work with.

Another possibility is to announce your workshop through the newsletters and websites of various local educational associations (such as local science, social studies, or math councils) or environmental education and outdoor education organizations. Press releases may be sent to local newspapers for their calendar section or for a regular section they may offer on schools/education.

It will be helpful to know in advance the number of people who will be attending your workshop. You may want to include a tear-off registration form at the bottom of your flyer. Besides letting you know how many people to expect, a pre-registration form can also help you plan to meet their specific interests. To encourage early sign-ups, you may also state “Enrollment is limited,” or “Register by (date).”

In order to make the workshop experience as positive as possible for those attending, you might consider setting a minimum and maximum number of participants. If you do this, make sure you have a way to contact participants before the workshop to let them know they are registered or if the workshop is canceled. Many PLT facilitators have stated that 10 is the minimum and 30 the maximum number of people for a successful workshop.

Helpful Hints for Making Flyers

General Rules:

- Define the audience and make sure the flyer is geared to that audience.
- Keep the flyer simple. Give just the information needed and avoid distractions.
- Make sure the style of the flyer and the information given are consistent.

Things to think about when making a flyer:

- Who is the audience? What do they need to know?
- What kind of heading will you use? How will it “catch the eye” and be recognized?
- How will you inform? What is the right amount of information?
- Be sure to include WHO to contact, WHAT to bring or expect, WHEN to come, WHERE the workshop is to be held, and HOW to get there.
- How can you group your information into sections that inform and can be distributed nicely throughout the flyer?
- How will you format your flyer? A symmetrical format is “calm” whereas an asymmetrical format communicates “action.” What typefaces will you use? Never use more than three different typefaces per piece - too many typefaces will look disorganized.
- What art can you include? You are encouraged to include the PLT logo and graphics, which you can obtain from your State Coordinator.

Considering the Audience

Before you plan the specifics of your workshop, it is helpful if you know some of the needs and interests of your participants. If you have enough lead time, you might prepare a pre-workshop questionnaire to find out their expectations for the workshop, what grade level and types of young people they work with, academic standards they are working on, and any special needs they have. If you know beforehand that the group you will be working with has a special area of interest, you may want to tailor the entire workshop to suit their needs.

Even if you do not know the specific needs of your audience, before you begin planning try to visualize what the audience would want from the workshop. Is their attendance mandatory or voluntary? If it is mandatory ask yourself, “Why would the participants *want* to attend?” and be prepared to show what they can gain from using PLT with their students. For information about ways to meet the needs of your audience as adult learners, see “Working with Adults as Learners,” in Appendix D.

You might also consider whether there are any local issues or current movements in education the participants might be concerned about. If you identify possible issues or trends, think about how you could address these during the workshop. For ideas on topics you might model and discuss, see Chapter VI.

Selecting PLT Activities

After you have considered your audience, you are ready to select PLT activities to present. Do this in tandem with planning the agenda (see “Planning the Agenda” that follows) so that you get an idea of how much time you will have for activities. In a four-hour Early Childhood workshop it is recommended that participants’ experience a minimum of *three* PLT activities. In a six-hour PreK-8 workshop, we recommend that participants’ experience a minimum of *five* PLT activities. In a two or three-hour secondary workshop, we recommend that participants are engaged in at least *two* PLT activities. Research on professional development suggests that participants are more likely to do those activities in their classroom that they did in workshops. Therefore, the more activities you have time to model the better.

The PLT activities you choose for the workshop should depend on the goals of your workshop, the interest areas of the participants, the time and space available, and your own personal preference. For a diverse group of educators, select activities that reflect the interdisciplinary nature of the materials, their usefulness in many subject areas and at all grade levels, and, if possible, the range of concepts addressed by PLT. If you know that your audience has a special area of interest, select activities to meet their needs. If the workshop focuses on a particular theme, grade level or academic standards, choose activities that tie in with that theme.

Select activities that involve a variety of learning strategies, for example, creative writing, simulation games, drawing, outdoor investigations, and mathematics. You might also want to select activities that demonstrate PLT’s ability to help students move from awareness of environmental issues to action.

Give participants an opportunity to participate in action-oriented activities, as well as a chance to sit periodically during other activities. By providing variety, you give participants a nice sampling of the activities in the guides, and create a more enjoyable and well-rounded workshop. Also allow for a mix of indoor and outdoor activities, weather permitting. Educators can see first-hand how flexible PLT is and they get a chance to enjoy the outdoors, too.

In general, plan to include activities *you* find exciting — your enthusiasm and excitement will be contagious. Many facilitators are more comfortable using PLT activities they have experienced themselves or have done with their students.

Trying out an activity will help you in several ways: you will know first-hand how the activity works; you may develop interesting extensions or variations or locate valuable resource materials you can share; and you can bring in student work to demonstrate the activity's effectiveness.

Feel free to modify any of the PLT activities with your own ideas and adaptations to fit local issues or interests, the time and space available for the workshop, and your own leadership style. Through your variations, you will be emphasizing an important idea: The PLT activities are useable as written, and they can also serve as points of departure for new explorations. Clearly convey this flexibility during your presentations.

You might also plan your workshops in a way that shows how PLT incorporates current practices of conceptual learning. For example, you might use a storyline to connect the activities you choose to demonstrate. These activities can be built around one of the PLT themes, or focus on a special interest in your community.

If you plan to have workshop participants present activities to each other, keep in mind that they will also be selecting some activities during the workshop. You might lead participants through a few activities, then form small groups that select, prepare, and present an activity. The participants can be asked to select activities that follow a storyline or theme.

In addition, you should have a plan to include participants with physical limitations. Think about how you would include someone with limited physical mobility in all activities.

Planning the Agenda						
When/Length of Time	What (Activity)	Why (Purpose)	Who	How (Method)	Where (Location)	Materials
8:30/ 20 minutes	Welcome and Introductions	Introduce presenters and participants to each other	Me	Nametag Ice Breaker	Room B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name tags • Marking pens

Planning the Agenda

After you have considered your audience and have begun selecting activities to present, you are ready to plan the workshop agenda. The following sections and the “PLT Workshop Agenda Highlights” that follow will give you some ideas about elements to include. Also look at the sample “Workshop Agendas” in Appendix C for approximate times to allow for various types of workshops, including workshops for Early Childhood, PreK-8, and for a secondary module.

PLT workshops should follow the steps to lead the workshop participants from an awareness of PLT, to knowledge about the specifics of the PLT program, to an opportunity to challenge the ideas or come to consensus on the new ideas, then finally to action—to use PLT materials in their teaching.

Once you have thought about how you will present the different workshop elements, you will need to decide how much time to allow for each element and the order of the elements.

When planning the schedule, remember that the pacing of the workshop activities is important. Offering a variety of activities helps participants stay interested in the materials and ideas you present. Keep in mind that certain modes work better at certain times of the day. For example – after lunch when most of us tend to get sleepy – you might consider physical movement or visual activities outside that can be more stimulating than making lists or watching a video. If possible include “alone time” when individuals can reflect on the ideas or events of the workshop, as well as small group time when they can share ideas with each other. Be sure to include time for breaks. Short frequent breaks can do wonders for reviving everyone’s energy level.

<i>PLT PreK-8 Workshop Agenda Highlights</i>			
AKCA Model Stage	Activity	Description	Time
Awareness	Welcome	Introduce presenters, brief overview of agenda and workshop goals, logistics	10 min.
	Getting Acquainted	Participants introduction; icebreaker	20 min.
	Background on PLT	See Section I of this handbook or the PLT guide for info on PLT’s mission, goals, sponsors, history, etc.	15 min.
Knowledge/Skills	Lead selected activities	Lead a series of activities (5) that demonstrate a storyline or meet a goal related to state content standards or other local objectives; provide time for feedback, application, and reflection	2 hours
	Distribute PLT guides “Hike” through Guide	Overview of the PLT activity guide – themes, activity components, appendices, copyright	15 min.
	Discuss other resources	Guest speaker; special topic (content specialist, reading connections, <i>GreenWorks!</i> , <i>Earth & Sky</i> , etc.)	30 min.
Challenge	Personal use	Small groups select and lead a PLT activity (or facilitator leads additional activities) Try using “PLT on the spot” strategy	90 min.
Action	Individual Planning	Individuals explore: How can I use PLT in my classroom or other situation?	20 min.
	Wrap Up	Evaluation – survey forms, certificates	15 min.
	Feedback	Were needs met?	5 min.

Critical Workshop Elements

- Welcome and Overview
- A brief history of PLT and acknowledgment of national and state sponsors
- PLT and Educational Issues (see Topics to Model and Discuss, Chapter VI)
- PLT Activities experienced by participants (minimum of 3 activities for Early Childhood, minimum of 5 activities for the PreK-8 and minimum of 2 per secondary module)
- “Hike” Through the PLT Guide (see Appendix D and Chapter IV for Early Childhood hikes and Chapter V for secondary hikes)
- PLT Resources
- Other Resources
- Individual Planning
- Discussion of how the PLT activities meet standards (national, state, local, or school)
- Evaluation, Feedback, and Certificates
- Discussion of ongoing or follow-up support

Following are things to consider when planning each of the above workshop elements:

Welcome and Overview

Plan how you will welcome the participants, introduce yourself and other presenters, and give a brief overview of the agenda. No matter how clearly you have stated the workshop purposes and timeframe in your pre-workshop publicity, it is a good idea to restate them when you begin the workshop. People feel more comfortable if they know what to expect - and when. Be sure to add some housekeeping items such as location of restrooms, breaks, snacks, etc.

Next, you may want to state the objectives of the workshop, and then ask participants to briefly write their individual and professional goals for being there. This should be something that they keep to themselves. Later in the workshop, take a moment to check in with them - how are they coming along in meeting their goals? You may also want to point out that while it is the facilitator’s responsibility to meet the goals of the workshop, it is the participants’ responsibility to make sure that they leave the workshop having met their own goals.

Plan how you will have participants introduce themselves. They are coming together for the workshop as learners and, especially if they do not know each other beforehand, you will enhance the learning environment by creating a friendly and informal atmosphere at the beginning of the workshop. You may want to provide nametags for participants, as well as leaders.

If appropriate, you may do a quick needs assessment to pinpoint the specific needs and expectations of each participant. For example, each participant might say, “My name is _____, I teach at _____, and I am particularly interested in _____ about PLT.” If you would prefer something lighter, you might plan an icebreaker activity. (For ideas, see the “Sample Icebreakers” in Appendix D).

PLT History

PLT is proud of its history and by offering brief highlights can give educators a better understanding of PLT's goals and purposes. The history should include:

- when, why, and by whom PLT was initiated
- how the PLT guides were developed and evaluated
- that PLT is adopted by states and foreign nations on a volunteer basis
- a mention of PLT's national partners and of the awards PLT has received
- PLT's history and sponsors in your state

All the information you'll need to do this is in Chapter I of this handbook. Also, a PowerPoint presentation is available on PLT's website that you can use during your workshop, as well as a Pennsylvania-specific PowerPoint available on the PA PLT website.

PLT Activities Presented by You

Plan how you will present each activity. If you have invited a resource specialist, consider asking that person to lead appropriate activities (see "Inviting a Resource Specialist" later in this section).

Plan to present PLT activities in a way that engages the participants as learners first, then allows them to reflect on the activities from their perspective as educators (for more information, see "Working with Adults as Learners" in Appendix D). To help participants reflect on the activity, you might have a quick debriefing after each activity. For example, you might invite them to share:

- what they learned through the experience
- what they would like their students to learn
- review the objectives listed for the activity and were they met
- what they liked about the activity and what they might do differently
- how they might adapt the activity to fit the needs of their students (for example, to fit a particular grade level or students with special needs)
- extension ideas
- how the activities relate to state standards
- any classroom management ideas or other suggestions they might have
- tips or ideas for the activity that you may wish to share with the group

This debriefing is often the most important part of the activity.

Depending on your audience, you might have them share in small groups or in the group as a whole (for a comparison of Group Methods, see the box below). You might also consider modeling and discussing learning cycles in your activity presentation and debriefing. For more ideas on how to do this, see the box that follows on "Leading a Group Activity Using the Experiential/Learning Cycle."

<i>Group Methods</i>			
Method	Main Feature	Strengths	Weaknesses
Lecture	Provides information.	Provides presentation of information in an organized, systematic way.	Provides few opportunities for interaction. Can be dull. Participants may not listen.
Lecture Discussion	Provides information and opportunities for interaction.	Provides efficient presentation while allowing audience to probe areas of interest to them.	Tends to make lecturer the only authority. Usually involves only “vocal” participants.
Large Group Discussion	Provides opportunity for extensive interaction.	Provides pooling of ideas, knowledge, and experiences. People can contribute at own level.	Becomes unwieldy with groups larger than 20-30 people.
Small Group Discussion	Allows almost 100% participation.	Provides pooling of ideas, knowledge, and experiences. More people can contribute at same time.	Can be time-consuming to report back to larger group.

Leading a Group Activity Using the Experiential/Learning Cycle

Learning is a cyclical process that builds on the learner’s previous experiences and knowledge. Consider modeling this cycle when leading a Project Learning Tree activity:

Experiencing

The learning process usually starts with experiencing: the learner becomes engaged by doing, observing, or saying something. Start the activity by involving participants, rather than “telling” what will happen.

Processing

The processing phase involves learners in thinking about and sharing what happened. Use questions to help participants process their experiences: What was ____ like for you? What did you feel when ____ happened? What do you think the consequences of ____ were?

Generalizing

In this phase learners explore what they learned from the experience and abstract generalizations from it. Ask participants question such as: What did you learn from this activity and what would your students learn? What was the most difficult part? What would you do differently another time?

Applying

This phase helps the learner confer personal meaning into the generalization. In your workshop, ask questions such as: How will you use this with your students? What will you do with the information gained in this workshop? These bring closure, and lead to new experiences.

Hike Through the PLT Guide

Plan how you will help participants become familiar with the contents of the activity guide(s). You may choose to conduct a walk-through using questions in a competition between small groups or in a “Jeopardy” game format. See Appendix D for examples. Or, you might prefer to lead the whole group through the guides pointing out important elements along the way. See the box below for important topics to cover on your “hike” through the PreK-8 Guide. See the chapters that follow for information on Early Childhood (Chapter IV) and Secondary Module (Chapter V) “hikes.”

“Hike” Through the PLT PreK-8 Guide Topics to Cover

Copyright – PLT Policy

Introductory Pages

- Acknowledgements, more in Appendix 16
- PLT mission & goals
- What is environmental education (EE)?
PLT = Quality EE
- Teaching methods & strategies
- PLT program overview & network

Activities

- Icons, p. 9
- Activity components, p. 10-11
- References & resources by activity in Appendix 4

Appendices

- Glossary
- Conceptual Framework & storylines
- Earth & Sky, differentiated instruction, technology connections
- Two Hats, teaching controversial issues, and much more!

Indices

- Subject, grade, time and technology
- Topic, skills, alphabetical

PLT Resources

Allow some time during the workshop to let participants know about the wealth of PLT resources that are available to them. A brief overview of these resources follows:

- The PLT website, at www.plt.org, includes additional resources to support PLT activities, standards correlations, special initiatives, and more.
- The *Earth & Sky* partnership with PLT provides a correlation of PLT activities to *Earth & Sky* radio shows, (please see Chapter I for more information and visit the Teachers Section of the Earth & Sky website at www.earthsky.org).
- PLT has launched a national initiative *Every Student Learns Outside*[™] and website (www.learnoutside.org) to help educators make outdoor experiences part of their everyday lesson plans
- *GreenWorks!* is the service-learning component of PLT that blends service activities with academic curriculum. PLT provides a helpful guidebook (available at www.plt.org) and offers competitive grants for implementing projects.
- PLT provides an online newsletter, the *Branch*, to inform workshop participants about new PLT projects and resources. Workshop participants can check a box on the PLT Participant Survey Form to receive notifications when a new edition of the *Branch* is available.

Other Resources

Consider how you will introduce participants to books, materials, or local resources that can supplement the PLT activities. You could display books and materials at a resource center throughout the day. For resources such as parks, arboretums, nature centers, museums, local conservation groups, you might make a “resource list” chart that participants add to throughout the day — then copy and send the ideas to participants afterwards.

If the workshop is at a park or nature center, perhaps a staff member could welcome the group. They could take a few minutes to discuss the center, what it has to offer for groups, and additional resources for educators.

Individual Classroom Planning

One of the initial questions participants are most likely to ask when they attend the workshop is “How can I use PLT in my classroom (or other setting)?” Individual classroom planning is an important component to include. Once your workshop participants have become familiar with PLT and some of the activities, they need time to directly connect these new materials to the needs of their students and to their own teaching goals.

Plan adequate time for this component, even if you have to shorten something else. You might lead a brainstorming session and ask everyone to share their ideas. Another approach would be to have participants form groups and devise plans for implementing PLT in their classrooms, and then come together for discussion with the whole group at the end. You could also ask participants to select lessons that they will be using in the next month or so. This helps to emphasize that PLT is not something extra, but rather it helps teachers teach what they already have to teach in the classroom.

Participants might also work independently to prepare specific plans for using PLT in their everyday teaching. Use PLT's Lesson Planning Worksheet to assist with this process (see Appendix D for a sample). You might ask participants in advance to bring textbooks and lesson plans to the workshop. This works well in a school or in-service setting.

Evaluation, Feedback, and Certificates

Plan time at the end of the workshop for each participant to complete a Participant Survey Form.

It is very important that these evaluation forms are turned in since this is how PLT-trained educators are added to the national PLT database and how State Coordinators keep track of trained teachers. You might also allow time for verbal feedback and suggestions for improving future workshops. This is also a good time to encourage participants to let other teachers, administrators, and others know about the workshops and resources that PLT provides.

Once participants have turned in their forms, you may want to give them a certificate of completion (see Appendix A for sample certificates).

Ongoing Support

Of particular importance to formal educators is the need to provide ongoing support and mentoring. One method that incorporates this is to deliver the workshop in small sections with assignments for trying out some of the activities in between the workshop sessions. If possible, the facilitator can assist in the classroom, through modeling, resources, and so forth. The sessions can be tied together with the school's goals and standards.

In addition, by checking off the appropriate box on the evaluation form, educators can stay in touch with PLT by receiving the *Branch* online newsletter. The newsletter provides information on PLT's new curriculum projects, educator tips, EE resources, and more

Inviting a Resource Specialist

Consider inviting a resource specialist - someone involved in the field of resource management or conservation - to the workshop you are planning. This person can help with specific content information or provide technical assistance in hands-on activities. The resource specialist can help provide one-on-one contact with participants and can handle specific questions that may not be appropriate for the entire group.

Adding a resource specialist to your workshop can complement your expertise and provide participants with two perspectives during one workshop. Meeting and working with a resource specialist can also give participants a local resource contact who may help them plan classroom visits or identify field trip sites. They may also be able to help by providing supplies such as tree cookies or water test kits, and by offering ideas for "action" projects.

Resource professionals include individuals with expertise in such areas as forestry, biodiversity, air quality, solid waste management, soil conservation, risk management, or wetlands. Specialists may be found at local, state, or federal natural resource agencies, private conservation groups, or colleges and universities. If you are planning in advance, you can ask the State Coordinator for ideas about who to contact to help with the theme of your workshop.

Once you have identified a resource specialist, clarify your expectations for his or her involvement in the workshop. Help the specialist understand that the objective of the workshop is to help educators feel confident in using PLT with their students, so they must not be overwhelmed by the activities or information presented. Send the specialist a copy of the workshop agenda and review the specialist's roles during different times. For example, discuss whether the specialist will participate with educators in a particular activity or whether he or she will provide expert commentary to introduce the activity. Also discuss strategies for facilitating rather than forcing learning.

Planning for Food and Beverages

Snacks and beverages will help participants feel comfortable and welcome. Find out ahead of time whether the sponsoring organization will provide snacks and beverages or whether you will be responsible. Remember to provide a choice of beverages and food to accommodate different dietary requirements. Also find out whether the workshop site has equipment for serving food and beverages such as a hot water pot, cups, spoons, or serving trays. If not, you may need to make arrangements for these items. The Early Childhood Guide highlights “enjoying snacks together” in some of the activities and using these snack ideas as part of the workshop is ideal.

If the workshop will be an all-day session, you should also consider how much time to allow for the lunch break. If there are restaurants nearby, you will need to allow enough time for participants to get there and back. (If participants will be going out, it may be helpful to provide a list of close-by restaurants with directions and their menus.) If there are no restaurants nearby, ask participants to bring a bag lunch or consider providing a simple catered lunch or buying groceries for a sandwich, fruit, and cookie smorgasbord. Sometimes time restraints will call for a “working lunch”, which can provide participants time to look through the activity guide, prepare presentations, or other group activities. Whatever you decide for lunch, be sure to allow the time needed for the type of lunch you plan. In addition, remember that participants will need to know what to expect ahead of time.

Planning for Health and Safety

Medical emergencies may occur at any time. As a PLT facilitator, be aware of your own safety, use common sense, and do not put yourself in any possible danger. To be prepared, consider the following:

- Bring a first aid kit or check to see that one is available at the workshop site. It should include basic supplies such as band-aids, antibiotic ointment, an ice pack, and rubber gloves. Let participants know that you have a first aid kit on hand.
- Be familiar with your site. Locate exits, hazards, sources of water, and telephones; and be able to explain the location.
- Know the emergency numbers for the area.
- Consider the physical safety of your participants. Encourage them to participate in activities within their physical capabilities and “comfort zone.”
- Make sure to have water and shelter available.
- In case of an emergency, use a “land line” rather than a cell phone to make emergency calls; that will allow emergency 911 operators to trace your location, and reception is more reliable.

- If individual medical issues arise, stay calm and seek medical attention.
- Check the weather for any possible severe weather advisories that may be predicted for the day of a workshop.

Gathering Materials and Equipment

Well before the workshop date, carefully plan what materials and equipment you will need for your workshop. Decide what you will need to present each agenda item and what participants will need. Find out what equipment is available at the workshop site and how you can reserve the equipment you need.

Materials from the State Coordinator

At least **four weeks** before your workshop, send a completed **“Workshop Proposal Form”** to the State Coordinator (see Introduction for specific addresses). The coordinator will approve and acknowledge receipt of proposal and send you the following materials:

- **PLT activity guides.**
- **PLT Participant Survey Forms.** During the workshop wrap-up, participants *must* complete this form. Survey responses are used to measure progress toward the statewide implementation goal. Return the forms to the State Coordinator along with the **Facilitator Cover Sheet** as soon after the workshop as possible.
- **PLT Certificates**
- **PA PLT Stickers** “This book provided by...”
- Other supplementary materials on hand.

If you do not receive materials within 10 days of the workshop, please contact your State Coordinator.

Other Materials

In addition to the materials from the State Coordinator, you may want to bring the following supplies as well as any other props for specific activities you are planning. If you conduct workshops often, you may wish to keep a workshop box, full of miscellaneous items such as these:

- Masking tape
- Flip chart and easel
- Non-permanent marking pens, different sizes and colors
- Pens or pencils
- Scissors
- Name tags
- Paper clips, rubber bands
- Supplies and props such as blank paper, crayons, or instructions
- Resource materials including children’s literature that supplements PLT activities and related environmental education curricula and guides
- First aid kit and emergency numbers (in case of an accident or medical emergency)
- Extra extension cord (for audio-visual equipment)
- Release forms (for use of photos or videos), see Appendix B for sample
- Computer and LCD projector, and any other audio-visual equipment that the host site is not providing

Preparing Necessary Visuals

Think about any visuals you will need, such as flip charts or overhead sheets, and prepare them before the workshop. See the box below on “Visual Aides Compared” for tips on making them as effective as possible. Be sure to consider the group size when choosing delivery methods. Develop a written agenda and write it on a flip chart or reproduce copies for all workshop participants.

Visual Aids Compared			
Visual Aid	Advantages	Disadvantages	Tips for Use
Chalkboard or Dry-Erase Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Familiar and convenient ▪ Allows spontaneity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lettering may be hard to read ▪ Can lose eye contact when writing on board ▪ Bad for large groups ▪ Chalk dust is dirty; dry-erase pens have strong odor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Plan use of space in advance – especially if you have drawing or charts. ▪ Write heavy and large. ▪ Use colors, if possible. ▪ Write some things on board ahead of time and cover until used. ▪ Keep the group talking while using. Ask follow-up questions.
Flip Charts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Can store and use readily ▪ Can use for display after presentation ▪ Materials are easily prepared and can be prepared ahead 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bulky and awkward to handle ▪ Not legible for very large groups ▪ Time consuming to produce ▪ Paper can rattle, crease, rip, or smudge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Make charts simple to read and understand. ▪ Have them in correct order and set up ahead of time. ▪ Keep the number of charts to a minimum. ▪ Write information reminders or key points lightly in pencil on the chart. You'll be able to read these during the session, but they won't be visible to participants.
Overhead Projector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Can maintain eye contact ▪ Materials are easily prepared and can be used over again 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Requires practice ▪ Not every workshop venue will have equipment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Set up equipment beforehand and check it. ▪ Practice using overhead: don't stand in front of image, don't look behind you at screen, and don't move the transparency.
Presentation from Software (such as Powerpoint)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Can prepare ahead ▪ Can easily make changes to presentation for next time ▪ Can print out hand-outs from presentation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Can make presentation seem "canned" ▪ Requires time and some skill to prepare ▪ Can become difficult to read if too much information presented ▪ Requires lots of equipment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Keep slides simple. ▪ Do not get carried away with special features. ▪ For a consistent, professional look, use templates provided in software package. ▪ If possible, try out presentation on a test audience. ▪ Set up all equipment in advance and test to make sure everything works.
Hand-outs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Good for reinforcement and review ▪ Good for presenting ideas for discussion ▪ Can eliminate need for participant to take notes ▪ You can copy and reuse them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Must prepare in advance ▪ Distribution can be distracting ▪ Cost of copying 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Design handouts clearly to promote understanding. ▪ Number handouts beforehand in case you want to refer to a particular handout.
Video/DVD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Compels attention, making presentation dramatic ▪ Good for introducing or reinforcing a topic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ May be difficult to locate the right video for your purpose ▪ Doesn't work well with large groups (unless you have projection equipment) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Set up beforehand and check machine operation. ▪ Brief participants – give them something to watch for. ▪ Preview thoroughly.

Day of Workshop Tasks

When you have finished planning and preparing for the workshop, you can focus your attention on setting up and conducting the workshop. When the workshop is over, do not forget a few essential post-workshop tasks that are described in the next section.

Setting Up

Allow yourself at least 60 to 90 minutes to set up the workshop space. If possible, you may want to set up the night before the workshop. By setting things up in advance, you will be more at ease. If you are not already familiar with the workshop site: locate restrooms, the quickest or easiest way outside (for outdoor activities), and light switches and plugs for audio-visual presentations. If you will be using any audio-visual equipment, test and set it up in advance.

Remember, the arrangement of tables and chairs can help or hinder your workshop. Arrange the room in a way you feel will best accommodate your workshop goals. For example, if you will be presenting both small group and large group activities, arrange tables and chairs to promote small group activities and enable participants to get up and move around in larger groups. If it is a smaller group, a circle of chairs may be most appropriate.

Set up the materials you will be using so they will be easily accessible when you need them. You might want to establish one table as your “home base” and place on it the items you will need during the workshop such as handouts and materials for the PLT activities you will lead.

Set up a table near the entrance with a sign-in sheet, nametags, and pens. If you like, make a sign that asks participants to make name tags for themselves and to print their names on the sign-in sheet as they would like them to appear on their PLT certificates. You may want to set up a separate table to display materials such as children’s books about trees and forests, sample student projects for specific PLT activities, or other resources.

Post the workshop agenda where everyone can see it or have copies available for each participant on the sign-in table. If beverages or snacks will be provided, set up a convenient — but separate — snack area.

Conducting the Workshop

If possible, allow time before the workshop to greet the participants. This will help them feel welcome and will also help you feel more at ease with the group as a whole.

Begin the workshop on time to be fair to those who come on time. Throughout the workshop, keep in mind the checklist of facilitator skills (see box). Keep an eye on the pacing of activities and when participants need a break or a change of pace. For one-day workshops, some facilitators like to fill in the PLT certificates during the lunch break so that they can distribute them at the end of the workshop.

Be sure to reserve time at the end of the workshop for participants to fill out the Participant Survey Forms.

Facilitator Skills Checklist

A good workshop facilitator promotes participation in many different ways:

- Setting a relaxed climate for learning.
- Listening to understand participants' needs.
- Developing a credible trust level with participants—never putting people down, but being firm when necessary.
- Having a composed and friendly manner.
- Having a sense of humor.
- Being an active listener—not boxed in by preconceived notions or answers.
- Conveying key concepts, but not overwhelming participants.
- Organizing time, materials, and people effectively.
- Being well prepared.
- Encouraging feedback and questions from workshop participants.
- Increasing the quality of participation by using "wait time," pausing three seconds or more after asking a question and after a participant response.
- Being willing to learn from mistakes and experiences to improve leadership skills.

Getting Release Forms

If you took pictures or videos during your workshop that you or your organization would like to use in the future, be sure to have participants complete a release form. See Appendix B for a sample.

Post-Workshop Tasks

When the workshop is over, pat yourself on the back! Then take time to do the following essential tasks:

Evaluating the Workshop

Spend some time evaluating the workshop for yourself: What went well and what things would you like to improve for the next workshop? Jot down your thoughts. You will find these notes helpful when planning future workshops. See Appendix D for “Evaluating Yourself as a Facilitator”

Sending Forms to State Coordinator

As soon after the workshop as possible, complete the Facilitator Cover Sheet and mail it to the State Coordinator along with the completed Participant Survey forms. Without these forms, the State Coordinator cannot place participants on the mailing list to receive future mailings and notifications.

The cover sheet and survey forms can be scanned then emailed or copied then mailed to your state coordinator (see Introduction for specific addresses).

Additional Follow-Up (Optional)

The extent of your post-workshop follow-up will depend on your available time and resources. If time permits, a thank you note to each participant along with a summary of key concepts and a list of names and addresses of the workshop participants is helpful. This helps participants begin their own local PLT network. If you did not distribute the certificates during the workshop, you may send them with a thank you note. If participants will be receiving college or district credit for attending your workshop, provide the follow-up needed to secure their credits.

Curriculum specialists and mentor teachers may appreciate additional follow-up to determine the long-term effectiveness of their in-service training programs. A few weeks after the workshop, you may decide to phone or e-mail a few of the participants to see how they are doing with the activities. If appropriate, suggest that they contact other workshop participants to compare notes regarding effective ways of using PLT. You might send a brief follow-up questionnaire to your group at the end of the school year to encourage their use of www.plt.org and the *Branch* newsletter, and to see what success they have had with the activities. This can provide you with good justification for future workshops, and indicate where your workshop might benefit from changes and modifications.



IV. Planning and Conducting an Early Childhood Workshop

This section was not available in time for printing of the facilitator manual. This section will be completed at a later date and will include information such as:

Early Childhood as a fundamentally a different approach

History of development of PLT Early Childhood guide

Important Milestones in early childhood

Things to keep in mind when working with young learners

Best Management Practices for early childhood education

Organizations involved in early childhood:

- PA Office of Childhood and Early Learning
- Head Start
- National Association for Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
- PA Association for the Education of Young Children

Pennsylvania Quality Assurance System (PQAS)

What to include – basic elements of an educator workshop

Example “Hike” through the guide

Promoting early childhood workshops – reaching the early childhood educator

V. Planning and Conducting a PLT Secondary Workshop

Basic Elements

The **basic elements** of a PLT secondary educator workshop are similar to those of a PreK-8 educator workshop. The beginning should include the following:

- *Welcome & overview of goals*
- *Participant introductions/ice breaker*
- *Introduction to PLT (state/national history, what is PLT) with an emphasis on why PLT has developed a series of secondary modules*

The next is **modeling of activities**. Workshop facilitators model activities from the modules that the participants will receive. It is recommended that you model at least two activities and also use the icebreaker as an opportunity to introduce another activity. Key elements of modeling include:

- Going through and conducting the steps of the activity
- Finding out how the participants could use the activity with their intended audience
- Debriefing at the end of the activity (adaptations, questions, etc.)

After the participants get a feel for the activities, it is time to hand out the modules and go for a **“hike” through the guide**. Following are two sample secondary module “hikes.”

“Hike” Through “Exploring Environmental Issues: Focus on Forests”

(This “hike/quiz” can be done verbally with prizes awarded)

1. Six key benefits from forests are highlighted in the Background Information of “Exploring Environmental Issues: Focus on Forests” – name them. (Page 7 – oxygen recharge, nutrient recycling, soil protection and flood control, climate control, wildlife habitat, and forest resources)
2. In “Exploring Environmental Issues: Focus on Forests,” how are references cited in the background information? (Author, Year - Book, Journal, etc. to make it easier to find the reference in the Bibliography)
3. What are the skills to be learned from Activity #5, *Balancing America's Forests* in “Exploring Environmental Issues: Focus on Forests”? (Page 34 – Analyzing, Comparing and Contrasting, Inferring, Interpreting, and Organizing Information)
4. What is the definition of “Silviculture”? (Page 53 – the science and art of cultivating forest crops on the basis of studying the life history and general characteristics of forest trees)
5. Where in the module Exploring Environmental Issues: Focus on Forests, can you find out how much timberland is in your state? (Page 69)
6. When was the Endangered Species Act enacted? (Appendix 3 – 1973)
7. How many educators tested Exploring Environmental Issues: Focus on Forests module? (Page 4 –17)

“Hike” Through “Exploring Environmental Issues: Focus on Risk”

(This “hike/quiz” can be done verbally with prizes awarded)

1. What is risk? (Background Information for Educators; glossary)
2. Where is PLT's Conceptual Framework found in the *Risk Module*? (Appendix 12)
3. Where can you find addresses for additional information? (Appendix 2, Additional Resources)
4. Where can you find out how the student activities are related to the Conceptual Framework? (Under the heading “Concepts” in the beginning of each activity)
5. Where do you find out what materials are needed for each activity and how long the activity will take? (Under the headings “Materials” and “Time Considerations” in the beginning of each activity)
6. Where can you find suggestions for evaluating students learning? (Under the heading “Assessment Opportunity” at the end of the instructions for teaching the activity)
7. How do you know if a word is in the glossary? (Bold and italicized)
8. If you wanted to teach a set of chemistry-related activities, where would you look to easily identify those activities? (Appendix 10, subject matrix)
9. Where can you find an activity relating to forests and risks? (Activity #7 – Decision Making: Ecological Risk, Wildfires, and Natural Hazards)

Consider also the following extensions of a hike:

- Divide the group into teams of 3-5 people and assign each team a theme. Their goal is to plan a 3-5 day unit around that theme, using activities from the module you are presenting in the workshop. They should write up their plan and then have each team present their plan to the whole group.
- Divide the group into teams of 3-5 people and assign each team an activity from the module. Their goal is to create a “coat-of-arms” for the activity so that it gives a clear synopsis of what it is about. They should include things like time considerations, materials needed, extensions, and the basic objectives of the activity.

Once the hike is complete, you should again explore the potential for **using the activities** from the module(s) with students.

Before the formal closing it is a good time to go over any remaining **questions**. Finally, the participants should fill out the evaluation forms receive their certificate of completion.

Adding to the Basic Elements

While the basic elements get the job done, it can be a more meaningful and effective workshop if you are able to:

- Invite a local resource specialist (i.e., forester, solid waste specialist, toxicologist, natural resource manager, etc.) to share local resources and to answer content related questions
- Set up learning stations that allow participants to get a taste for more activities
- Spend some time on lesson planning in small groups where educators can share ideas on how they are going to implement the activities in their classes

Planning a Secondary Workshop

The essential details for planning an educator workshop are found in Chapter III of this handbook. The major difference for a secondary workshop is that there is often less time to work with. Here are some time guidelines:

If you have:	You can cover:
2 hours	→ 1 module
3-4 hours	→ 2 modules
5-6 hours	→ 3-4 modules

If you plan to cover more than one module, you may consider grouping the modules to work around a theme (see some specific examples below). It may also be useful to find out what subject(s) the participants teach and create a workshop that is tailored to those needs.

Possible Secondary Module Workshop/Session Formats

You may want to consider trying one or more of the following secondary module workshop or session formats:

- Hold a two-hour workshop after school
- Hold a session at a conference (1-3 hours)
- Embed in a one-day science or social studies professional development in-service day
- Embed in secondary methods science and social studies courses

Setting up a Workshop around a Theme

If you are able to cover more than one module at a workshop, you may want to use one theme that ties the modules together and shows how they can complement each other. Below are a few thematic ideas along with the corresponding activities.

Sample Topics and Supporting Activities (by module)

Module →	Places We Live	Focus on Forests	Forest Ecology	Municipal Solid Waste	Focus on Risk	Biodiversity
Topic/Focus ↓						
Forest Issues	Green Space	Tough Choices	Saga of the Gypsy Moth		Decision-Making (Part B-Wildfires)	Global Invaders; Protected Areas
Wildfires			Understanding Fire, and Fire Management		Decision-Making (Part B-Wildfires)	
Solid Waste & Risk	Far Reaching Decisions			Waste -to - Energy	Risk Perception	
				Recycling and Economics	Plastics, Risk/Benefit	
Math and EE			Cast of Thousands	Recycling and Econ.	Probability and Risk	
Decision Making	A Vision for the Future	Tough Choices or Squirrels vs. Scopes	Saga of the Gypsy Moth	Landfills	Decision-Making or Weighing the Options	Protected Areas; Potatoes, Pesticides, & Biodiversity

Promoting Secondary Workshops – Reaching the Secondary Audience

One of the biggest challenges is marketing the PLT workshop to secondary educators. When doing PR for your workshop, include the following information – as applicable - in your flyer or other publicity materials:

- Correlation to state and/or national standards
- Credit for professional development requirements (if available)
- Networking opportunity
- What in-depth content will be presented
- Eligibility for *GreenWorks!* -- highlight service learning
- Encouraging quotes from teachers who have taken a workshop
- Hands-on opportunities
- Career connections
- Content experts—speakers
- Fee waived or stipend for substitute teacher
- Materials and other EE resources participants will receive

If possible, try to find out who your prospective audience is beforehand so you can advertise according to their specific needs.

Learning Stations

Since time is a limiting factor during the workshop, learning stations provide an opportunity for participants to check out some of the activities that you do not get to model. The basic idea of learning stations is that you display the objectives of the activity, any necessary props, and any student pages. If you happen to have done the activity and you have any photographs or completed student pages that would be excellent as well.

As an example, if you are facilitating a workshop for the Municipal Solid Waste module, you can set up the Landfill activity at a learning station (if you are unable to model it). The station would include a poster board with the objectives, maybe some background information or the steps of the activity, and the student pages. You could also have a landfill in a bottle so that the participants could see what it takes to put it together.

The following is a list of activities for each module that could work well as learning stations:

Biodiversity	Forest Ecology	Focus on Forests	Municipal Solid Waste	Places We Live	Risk
Global Invaders: Student pages, “Common Characteristics” on p. 2; student presentation samples f/ Part A; world map to show species movement	Adopt-a-Forest: The “Adopt-a-Forest Profile” and “Forest Inventory Chart” student pages filled out; any photographs from a site visit.	Who Owns America’s Forests: Copies of maps showing forests around the U.S. (could use the PLT map); copies of the student pages.	Source Reduction: Samples of overly packed items and efficiently packaged items; the student pages.	Mapping Your Community Through Time: Aerial photos and GIS maps, regional planning documents.	Chances Are...Understanding Probability and Risk: A collage of the overview, instructions, graphs, and charts – with some pennies scattered around.
Protected Areas: Student pages; samples of group representations f/ Part A and Protected Area presentations f/ Part B	Cast of Thousands: See materials list in activity for things to display at a table along with a poster with the overview and some of the student pages	Tough Choices: Highlight the elements of an environmental issue – can put each element on a piece of paper and then highlight the topics that are discussed.	Composting: Student page on compost bin designs; Appendix 6 – Composting in a Bottle (show different materials separately and one completed example).	Green Space Maps of your local community, green maps of your community.	Risk Assessment: The student pages, plus some packets of artificial sweetener.
	The Nature of Plants: See the Getting Ready sections for parts B and C for the materials for the experiments, and display those.	Words to Live By: Cut out and enlarge the information on pages 44 – 46 and display on a poster.	Waste-to-Energy: Display titles of the interest groups; have the interest group positions on pieces of cardboard; the W-T-E facility graphic on page 81.	Far-Reaching Decisions: Link to various websites showing your ecological footprint.	Electro-magnetic Fields: Student pages 134-5 (with 134 filled out) on the poster (along with overview, etc.); index card with the interest group positions; an EMF reader, if available.



VI. Topics to Model and Discuss

In addition to introducing the PLT materials, your PLT workshop should be a vehicle to help teachers learn new teaching strategies and techniques. Consider organizing your workshop with a focus on a theme or topic, such as:

- Education Reform and PLT
- Constructivist Teaching
- PLT and Thinking Processes
- Learning Styles
- Multiple Intelligences and PLT
- Cooperative Learning
- Early Childhood Education and PLT
- Using PLT to Teach Technology
- Using PLT to Support Differentiated Instruction
- Focus on Reading with PLT
- Addressing Controversial Issues
- Leading Successful Outdoor Activities
- A Focus on Urban and Community Forests

These topics are described below, with suggestions for addressing them in a workshop.

Education Reform and PLT

During the past two decades, many systemic reforms have taken place in schools. In general, these reforms have focused on new approaches to teaching and learning, site-based governance, new roles for teachers, and accountability.

The PLT program has responded to these changes, and has evolved accordingly. Consider highlighting in your workshop how PLT supports these educational reform measures. For example:

- **New Methods of Teaching and Learning.** The most recent revision of the PreK-8 guide strengthened the activities' grounding in the "constructivist" approach to teaching and learning. This approach is founded on the premise that learning is a dynamic process in which learners fit new information together with what they already know. As you model activities in your workshop, point out how PLT activities employ a constructivist approach by beginning with a question or other task to help students engage their current knowledge, and then build on that knowledge through active learning. (For more information, see the following section, Constructivist Teaching.) In addition, you might have participants identify how they would use or modify a specific PLT activity to incorporate other new approaches in their teaching.

- **Site-Based Governance.** PLT is an ideal resource for educators whose districts or schools embrace site-based governance. In your workshop, help participants see how PLT's storylines, conceptual framework, indices, and state standards correlations can help them design units of instruction that meet state or district standards.
- **New Roles.** The wide variety of PLT activities allows the educator to explore new roles. To help your workshop participants see and explore this aspect of PLT, model activities that demonstrate different teacher roles – such as direct instruction, inquiry, leading, managing, or facilitating – and have participants identify and compare the roles.
- **Accountability.** All PLT lessons include assessment opportunities to help teachers determine whether their students have learned the concepts addressed. By using these assessments, educators can be confident that the activities also meet the specific grade level standards indicated in PLT correlations to state standards. During the curriculum planning time of your workshop, suggest that participants select the assessments they would use with specific activities to ascertain their students' understanding of the concepts.

Source: Based on “How Does Project Learning Tree Support Systemic Reform?” by Bill Andrews, former Education Program Consultant, Office of Environmental Education, California Department of Education. *Branch*, Spring 1998.

Constructivist Teaching

Constructivism, also known as constructivist teaching or learning, is the learning philosophy that has been guiding the revision of today's education. Its teaching-learning strategies are aligned with how educational researchers now believe students learn best.

Constructivism differs from the more “traditional” classroom teaching model, which emphasizes that students learn because teachers teach. Instead, constructivism views knowledge as a mental construct that is built on and added to by the learner. Thus, learners do not passively absorb knowledge, but dynamically adapt their understanding of new experiences in light of what they already “know.” Educators are responsible for facilitating learning experiences that enable students to manipulate materials, consider points of view, participate in group work, and focus on learning concepts.

Constructivism also includes another component: authentic assessment of student progress. Rather than paper-and-pencil tests as the only measure of student learning, assessment can include demonstrations of information, discussions, position papers, checklists of science process skills, and videotapes of presentations.

During your workshop, you can help educators ensure that their students are “constructing” attitudes, knowledge, and skills while participating in PLT activities. Following are some suggestions.

- While planning your workshop activities, adapt them to have as much of a local emphasis as possible so that participants can incorporate their experiences to their local situation. Point out to participants that PLT activities are meant to be flexible in this way.

- Model asking participants their ideas about a concept before doing an activity that teaches the concept. Discuss how this technique helps assess students' prior knowledge and helps students make sense of the new concept based on what they already understand.
- Help participants identify ways the activities you conduct would enable students to build on their own experiences and knowledge.
- After conducting an activity, invite participants to brainstorm a list of open-ended questions they might ask their students. These kinds of questions encourage inquiry, and help students clarify their own thinking.
- During the curriculum planning time, have participants identify ways they could measure their students' learning using authentic assessment as part of a unit.

Source: Adapted from “Constructivism: A List of Teaching Strategies” by Dr. Darleen Stoner, Professor, Environmental Education, California State University, San Bernardino.

PLT and Thinking Processes

Two essential skills needed by students are critical thinking and the ability to problem-solve. Rather than being taught *what* to think, students need to be taught *how* to think, and to develop a process for “thinking through” an issue.

PLT activities can help teach essential thinking processes because they provide opportunities for students to practice these processes. The following are specific science thinking processes from *Science Framework for California Public Schools*, California Department of Education (1990) that also apply in other subject areas:

- **Observing** is the process by which we use our senses to gather information and construct a view of the world and how it works.
- **Communicating** through language and symbols enables us to convey ideas to others in the present and for the future.
- **Comparing** builds on the process of observing, and deals with the concepts of similarities and differences.
- **Ordering** is the process of putting objects or events in a linear format.
- **Categorizing** puts objects or events together in groups or classes using a logical rationale.
- **Relating** involves seeing relationships between and among things - relationships such as interactions, dependencies, and cause-and-effect events.
- **Inferring** deals with matters and ideas that are remote in time and space - not experienced directly.
- **Applying** is the process that puts knowledge to use - sometimes in a practical sense, or sometimes tying together information into a theory or framework.

Teachers participating in your workshop will appreciate you helping them to:

- **Be aware of thinking processes that are involved in PLT activities.** Emphasis on thinking processes, as well as content, will help educators in PLT workshops to teach PLT concepts more effectively and provide the necessary rationale for using PLT in meeting district or school curriculum objectives. Help teachers identify thinking processes in the activities you present.
- **Identify thinking processes specifically.** Being specific about the processes involved in a particular activity will help teachers identify how it fits into their curriculum. For example, encourage teachers to recognize when students will compare renewable to nonrenewable resources, relate the presence of trees to local temperatures, or predict the effects of deforestation on soil erosion.
- **Recognize nonverbal evidence of thinking and problem solving.** While evaluating or assessing learning is an important part of teaching, results of written products and tests dominate student records of achievement. Teachers need assistance in identifying ways to give credit for and to record nonverbal behaviors that indicate thinking and learning. When debriefing PLT activities during the workshop, ask teachers to list nonverbal behaviors students might exhibit that would indicate their understanding and learning.
- **Recognize ways to adapt activities to various cognitive levels.** Children progress through cognitive stages acquiring the specific thinking processes. They do not skip stages. An awareness of general age ranges and their corresponding expectations for thinking ability is useful in adapting activities to specific grades. Teachers appreciate help in analyzing parts of an activity for thinking process requirements as well as knowledge requirements. “What’s going on in the students’ head?” should be a frequent question for teachers to ask when familiarizing themselves with PLT activities.
- **Appreciate knowledge students bring with them to a learning situation and help construct or reconstruct knowledge through experiences.** Teachers know that students do not come to an activity, lesson, or unit with a blank slate. Students have ideas, notions, and explanations for the world around them. These ideas work for them even though the interpretations may be alternative forms compared to those you accept as logical or true. Teachers appreciate your examples of typical “alternate understanding” that students may have about concepts or issues, and will want to explore with you any experiences they might provide to students that enable them to construct or reconstruct their knowledge.

Source: Adapted from a handout prepared by Dr. Karen Reynolds, Department of Education, San Jose State University for the “Advanced Training for PLT Facilitators Workshop,” January 1989.

Learning Styles

Learning style indicates how a person learns and likes to learn. Each style reflects genetic coding, personality development, motivation, and environmental adaptation. Style is relatively persistent in the behavior of individual learners. It can change, but does so gradually and developmentally. Learning style has cognitive, affective, and environmental elements. No learning style is better than another, each is simply different.

There are many different models of learning styles, but in general most models identify four different learning styles. Bernice McCarthy, in her 4MAT system, characterizes the four learning styles as shown below on "**Teaching to Learning Styles.**"

Learning Style 1: Imaginative Learner

I like to: learn through personal experience; have meaning in what I learn; learn about things I value and care about; express my beliefs, feelings and opinions; and understand how what I learn affects me. I function best when interacting with others. My goal is to make the world a better place. My favorite question is "Why?"

Teach by: Giving them a reason; having them create and analyze an experience.

Learning Style 2: Analytic Learner

I like to: get new and accurate information; deal in facts and right answers; know what the experts think; formulate theories and models; and have things exact and accurate. I function best when adapting to experts. My goal is to add to the world's knowledge. My favorite question is "What?"

Teach by: Teaching it to them; integrating the experience and the material; giving them the facts.

Learning Style 3: Common Sense Learner

I like to: do things; have ideas clear and understandable; find out how things work; test theories in the real world; and make things useful. I function best using kinesthetic awareness. My goal is to make things happen. My favorite question is: "How?"

Teach by: Letting them try it; giving them prepared materials and have them add "something of themselves" to it.

Learning Style 4: Dynamic Learner

I like to: connect things together; do things that matter in life; teach other people what I know; take some risks; and make what is already working work better. I function best by acting and testing experience. My goal is to challenge complacency. My favorite question is: "So what?"

Teach by: Letting them teach it to themselves and someone else; having them analyze for relevance and originality, then share with each other.

During your workshop, help educators use PLT and learning styles in the following ways:

- Model using the four different learning styles in your presentation. When planning your workshop, identify the learning style most prominent for each workshop element. You need not represent the styles equally, but be sure to exemplify each one.
- Using the previous teaching to learning styles information, help each of the participants identify which learning style seems to best describe him or her. Keep in mind that most learners use a combination of styles.

- Suggest that participants identify a particular student or other person they know that seems to fit each of the learning styles. Make sure that participants understand that the point of this exercise is to help them have a concrete picture of each of the styles, not to stereotype their students.
- Encourage participants to identify which styles are prominent in each PLT activity presented at the workshop. Ask participants to suggest ways to extend each PLT activity presented to get at some of the other learning styles.
- During the lesson planning time, have participants identify a group of lessons that focus on different learning styles to teach together as part of a unit.

Sources:

Keefe, James W. (ed.). *Profiling and Utilizing Learning Style*. Reston, VA: National Association of Secondary School Principals, 1988.

McCarthy, Bernice. *The 4MAT System: Teaching to learning styles with right/left mode techniques*. 2nd ed. Oak Brook, Ill: EXCEL, 1981.

Multiple Intelligences and PLT

The theory of multiple intelligences, developed by Howard Gardner and his associates, holds that every individual possesses several different and independent capacities for solving problems and creating products. Gardner has named these capacities "intelligences" and has scientifically identified eight of them, grouped into four categories described as language-related, personal relationships, object-related, and naturalistic intelligences.

The language-related intelligences include the verbal/linguistic and musical/rhythmic. These two intelligences are "object free," meaning that thoughts are represented through sound based communication and symbolic representations of those sounds.

The personal relationships group consists of interpersonal and intrapersonal intelligences. These are the people-centered intelligences. They reflect the personal vision of self, expectations of others, accepted norms of thinking and acting, and the cultural pressures that shape behavior.

Object-related intelligences include bodily/kinesthetic, visual/spatial, and logical/mathematical. This designation means that the basic concepts and procedures are rooted in physical manipulation of concrete objects that result in a defined product. "Rules of the game" for using the objects to solve a problem or make a product are important to this group.

Gardner describes the naturalist intelligence as an ability to differentiate the patterns and characteristics among natural objects in the environment, recognize flora and fauna, make distinctions in the natural world, and observe and classify plants. Charles Darwin is often cited as an example of a person who possesses a naturalist intelligence.

As with other instructional strategies, PLT has already incorporated many of the key aspects of multiple intelligences theory into its activities. Try tapping into these multiple intelligences in your workshops.

One of the simplest ways to include the notion of multiple intelligences in your workshop is to ask participants to "represent" the data they have collected during a PLT activity using one of the eight intelligences. Each group can be invited to use the intelligence with which they are most comfortable or you can assign a different intelligence to each group. By doing this, you encourage them to really let their personalities shine! Some will dance, sing, draw pictures, make models, create graphs, or do calisthenics to report their findings.

Source: Adapted from an article in PLT's the *Branch* prepared by Cindy Ybos and Patty Watts, Louisiana PLT. 1998.

Cooperative Learning

Cooperative learning is a model of instruction in which students work together in small groups to achieve a common learning goal. PLT activities can help a teacher implement cooperative learning because many of the lessons can be conducted with cooperative groups. There are many different models of cooperative learning, and teachers should set up and use it in the way they feel most comfortable. Teachers who use or are interested in using cooperative learning will appreciate your addressing the following in the workshop:

- **The cooperative learning potential of PLT activities.** Whenever possible, model using cooperative learning in a particular lesson by setting it up for teachers to experience it that way during the workshop. After presenting each lesson (as cooperative learning or not), have teachers discuss how the lesson could be modified to better facilitate cooperative learning. Use the appendix in the PreK-8 guide, "Successful Cooperative Learning Steps," as a lead-in to the discussion.
- **Grouping issues.** In cooperative learning, the teacher must decide on how the groups will be formed, how large the groups should be and how long groups should stay together. For example, the groups may be randomly formed or assigned by the teacher, and groups may stay together for only one class period, or for six weeks. Model different ways of grouping in the workshop, then discuss the advantages and disadvantages of various ways of grouping, of group sizes, and of the group duration.
- **Structuring the learning task.** For each PLT activity experienced in the workshop, help teachers identify how the learning task could be structured so that it is truly cooperative, with successful completion of the task requiring each group member's participation.

Early Childhood Education and PLT

The introduction of environmental education at the early childhood level reaches children at a key developmental period in their lives. Early experiences with the natural world have been linked with the development of imagination and a sense of wonder and curiosity.

Exploring nature is a sensory experience. By inviting children to touch, hear, taste, and view their surroundings, they experience the natural world directly. These vital experiences in the early childhood years have the potential for influencing life-long attitudes, values, and patterns of behavior towards the natural world.

With more than 130 experiences and 11 activities, the *Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood* guide is specifically designed for the young learner. In addition, many activities from PreK-8 can be used as-is or modified for early childhood education, especially those activities that emphasize curiosity, discovery, wonder, self-expression, celebration, and hands-on experiences. Educators will have the most success introducing environmental education to young learners if they:

- Keep experiences simple.
- Infuse environmental education into all aspects of the early childhood program.
- Provide options.
- Keep children actively involved, remembering that they learn from play.
- Integrate music and movement, art, and literature into activities.
- Focus on relationships and the wonders and mysteries of nature.
- Let children use their imaginations to express dramatic and creative interests.
- Involve use of all the senses.
- Go outside often – around the school, neighborhood, nearby park.
- Model interest, caring, and respect for the natural environment.
- Take fears seriously. Reassure children that may be hesitant to try something new.
- Praise and celebrate and have fun.

When planning for a PLT workshop for early childhood educators, make use of the many activities included in the *Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood* guide. Choose activities that include options for learning through hands-on experiences either outside or in the classroom. Demonstrate activities that use art, music, books, and even snacks! Be sure to allow time to discuss how teachers would use or modify an activity for their group or setting.

Using PLT to Teach Technology

In today's world of information technologies, teachers and students alike need to learn and practice using a variety of technological tools. Planning a workshop to introduce PLT activities and technology connections can be a welcome invitation to educators hoping to bring both EE and technology to their classrooms.

As of 2006, the PreK-8 guide provides a variety of ideas for integrating technology into activities. The appendix "Technology Connections" provides an overview of technology use within the context of PLT, and a description of the following technology tools:

- Word Processing Software
- Spreadsheet/Database Software
- Presentation Software
- Graphics Software
- Graphic Organizer Software
- Digital/Video Cameras
- Peripherals
- Internet Resources



Within the activities, the technology icon highlights the suggestions for using technology, while the PreK–8 guide’s Technology Connections Index provides a quick reference to activities that use specific technology tools. Consider demonstrating these technology tools as you model activities in your workshop. See Appendix C for a sample workshop agenda that links PLT activities with technology tools.

Using PLT to Support Differentiated Instruction

Through differentiated instruction, teachers are able to provide challenges for gifted learners, while ensuring that lessons are comprehensible and accessible to those still acquiring English language skills and to students with learning disabilities. The *PreK-8 Environmental Education Activity Guide* provides educators with a curriculum that facilitates teaching to a variety of levels and enables students to become a community of learners.

Although teachers have always addressed students who fall within a continuum of abilities, the movement toward inclusion in the classroom has brought together students representing a greater range of differences than ever before. For this reason, it is not uncommon to see students in one classroom learning the same key concepts but accessing the information through a wide and creative range of divergent activities. Teachers who differentiate instruction incorporate paired and cooperative team activities, hands-on learning, realia (tangible, 3-dimensional physical objects of, or from, the real world), alternative and authentic forms of assessment, adapted instructional strategies, and accommodations into their lessons.

All Project Learning Tree activities apply current “best-practices” in differentiating curriculum; however, several activities were reviewed and identified as particularly appropriate for the diversity of the classroom. The appendix: “20 Activities with Differentiated Instruction” provides a list of these PLT activities in the PreK–8 guide.

Activities in the PreK-8 guide that include differentiation are noted with the appearance of this icon  in the sidebar. In addition, the sidebar lists the methods that are used in the activity to enhance differentiating instruction. Within the activities, suggestions are made as to how to incorporate the methods listed in the sidebar. These suggestions are highlighted throughout the activity by the differentiated instruction  icon.

Differentiating instruction methods used in the activities throughout the PreK–8 guide include:

- highlighting key vocabulary
- creating links to prior knowledge
- utilizing paired/cooperative learning
- providing nonlinguistic representations
- using realia and hands-on learning
- making curricular and personal connections
- developing oral, reading, and writing skills, and
- incorporating higher order thinking opportunities.

Please see the appendix: “Differentiated Instruction”, in the PreK-8 guide for a description of each of these methods and for additional information on this topic. The following sections are also included in this appendix: “Working with Exceptional Students,” “English Language Learners (ELL),” and “PLT and the Gifted Student.”

Focus on Reading with PLT

PLT supports the important role that reading plays in the classroom. Activities accompanied by literature can provide students with a meaningful way to expand their learning and imagination, while providing educators with tools needed to address current education initiatives. PLT has made reading connections a leading feature of the *PreK-8 Environmental Education Activity Guide*.

For each activity, a list of three to seven relevant books is provided at the end of the activity in a highlighted box, entitled “Reading Connections.” These books were selected to assist teachers in meeting reading goals and to build upon concepts learned in the activities. Authors, titles, annotations, grade level recommendations, and ISBN numbers are provided for each book.

Additional books correlated to each activity, but not found in the highlighted box, can be found at PLT’S website under the PreK–8 guide’s resources at: <https://www.plt.org/reading-connections>. There are two lists found at the website; one is categorized by author and the other by PLT activity.

Several of the PLT activities include a “read-aloud.” Research indicates that reading aloud motivates children to want to learn to read, assists in vocabulary and language development, and increases content knowledge. Reading a story aloud also presents great opportunities for classroom discussions, role plays, shared readings, art and crafts, and singing songs. In these read-alouds, educators are given additional techniques for effectively expanding upon the reading with their students. In “Trees as Habitats,” for example, a “read aloud” is included with the book, *Good-Night Owl!* Use of this book has been integrated into the activity and discussion questions have been added.

Read-alouds include stories for teachers to read aloud or for students to read themselves, depending on the grade level. With these stories and the discussion questions provided in the activities, educators can introduce new vocabulary and concepts, expand on content knowledge, and assess student comprehension. Activities that have stories within them include “Sounds Around,” “The Forest of S.T. Shrew,” “Tale of the Sun,” “Nothing Succeeds Like Succession,” “Earth Manners,” and “A Look at Lifestyles.”

For more information on how PLT supports reading, please see “Reading Connections” in the Introduction of the PreK-8 guide.

Addressing Controversial Issues

When teaching about the environment, many educators avoid interesting topics and issues because they are reluctant to deal with controversy in the classroom. If you wish, your PLT workshop can provide ways for educators to examine ways to teach and cope with controversial topics. You might, for example:

- Help participants identify potential controversial issues embedded in the PLT activities you present.
- Lead a discussion about the benefits and pitfalls of teaching about controversial issues. Help participants identify ways for handling each of the pitfalls. You might use the appendix in the PreK-8 guide, “Teaching Controversial Issues,” as a discussion starter.

- Invite resource specialists to the workshop to help explain their perspectives on the topic. Help participants discuss arguments for and against each perspective. See Chapter III for information on inviting a resource specialist.
- Encourage participants to brainstorm a list of possible concerns that parents, administrators, the community, or the participants themselves would have about teaching a particular controversial issue. Then help them brainstorm ways to address each of the concerns.
- During the lesson-planning portion of the workshop, allow time for participants to begin a plan for addressing a controversial issue that relates to a unit of study.

Leading Successful Outdoor Activities

Taking students outdoors allows them to personally experience and examine the natural world. These experiences are critical for helping students understand the world around them and can have a positive impact on students' behavior and academic performance (learn more about PLT's Every Student Learns Outside initiative at www.learnoutside.org). This being said, many educators still shy away from outdoor activities because these activities present management or other problems. For example, when students leave their familiar classroom for an outdoor activity, they often assume that the classroom rules no longer apply.

To help educators become more comfortable with leading successful outdoor activities, provide ways of addressing this issue in your workshop. Following are some suggestions.

- At the workshop introduce participants to the outdoors, and help them see the importance and advantages of working outside. After each outdoor activity, discuss how the activity and the learning would have been different if it had been conducted indoors.
- Have participants brainstorm a list of the pluses and minuses of leading outdoor activities. Divide participants into small groups and have them think of ways to turn the minuses into pluses.
- Have participants read the appendix in the PreK-8 guide, "Teaching Out-of-Doors," and brainstorm other techniques to add to the list.
- To help participants feel more comfortable working outdoors, invite a resource specialist to answer questions and provide information about the outdoor site, such as the names of trees or interesting natural history.
- Share positive educator stories from the Every Student Learns Outside website at www.learnoutside.org.

A Focus on Urban and Community Forests

The trees around our homes and schools, along streets, and in parks and other public places are part of what is called the “urban forest.” This complex community of animals and plants includes trees established by people, as well as the remnants of native vegetation.

Together both the native and non-native trees shape the quality of life in urban environments, and perform important functions, such as:

- **Temperature Control.** Urban areas are often called “heat islands” because the buildings, asphalt, and concrete can significantly increase the air temperature. Trees help to reverse this effect, and act as nature’s air conditioners. In fact, tree-covered areas can reduce temperatures as much as 25 degrees in the summer.
- **Air Quality.** Traffic, construction, industrial, agricultural, and other activities in urban areas create airborne dust, and raise levels of carbon dioxide and other pollutants. Trees can help air quality in two ways: their leaves collect dust, and growing trees also take up carbon dioxide during photosynthesis and store it in the form of glucose and cellulose, thus reducing ambient levels. However, trees are also sensitive to air contamination—discolored leaves or die-back of branches and leaves are signs of stress.
- **Wind Control.** A dense planting of trees can reduce wind speed around buildings, playgrounds, and streets and offers protection against soil erosion.
- **Sound and Light Controls.** Planted along streets or near homes, schools, and parks, trees filter light and sound by acting like a shield to slow or reflect light and sound waves.
- **Wildlife Cover.** Many kinds of wildlife depend on the urban forest habitat to provide food and shelter necessary for their survival.

When planning a PLT workshop that focuses on the urban forest, consider the following:

- Collaborate with community organizations, agencies, or advocates working on urban forest issues to establish a local partnership and to bring in a local perspective.
- Host the workshop in an urban park, at a school with established or new trees, or in conjunction with a new tree planting to help you link all elements of PLT’s philosophy of “awareness to action.”
- Highlight activities that provide a deeper understanding of how the “forest” co-exists with the urban setting, helping educators see the value of studying the trees on their school grounds and getting students outside.
- Invite a member of a native plant organization, an arborist, or landscape architect to help with your workshop, or to identify trees around the workshop site.
- Gear the PLT activities you choose toward:
 - Developing an awareness of trees and urban forestry.
 - Increasing understanding of the importance of urban trees and their influence on temperature, air quality, wind, light and sound controls and habitat for wildlife.
 - Examining the interdependence of the natural and built environment within urban forests.
 - Developing a sense of personal responsibility for the urban forest.



Appendix A: Sample Forms

These forms are available electronically on the PA PLT website at: <http://dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/education/projectlearningtree/index.htm>. Electronic versions and/or hard copies of the certificates are available from your State Coordinator.

These are the forms you will need to plan and conduct your workshop:

- Workshop Proposal Form
- Facilitator Cover Sheet
- Participant Survey Form
- Example PLT Certificate
- Example Early Childhood Certificate
- Example Facilitator Expense Sheet



PROJECT LEARNING TREE® WORKSHOP PROPOSAL

Please allow at least 4 weeks

Facilitator Information:

Name: _____
Mailing Address: (do not list PO Boxes) _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Business Phone (daytime): _____ Home Phone (evening): _____
Email: _____
Co-Facilitator(s) Name and Organization _____

Workshop Information:

Date(s) of Proposed Workshop _____
Location (City, State) _____
Times and Total Workshop Length _____
Number of Participants _____

Workshop Audience: Check all that apply

☐ Early Childhood ☐ Secondary ☐ PreK-8 ☐ PreK-12 ☐ Pre service ☐ Non-Formal ☐ Other Professional _____

Is this a Joint Workshop?

☐ Yes ☐ No **If yes:** ☐ with WET ☐ with WILD ☐ with WET & WILD

Is this Workshop open to anyone? If yes, the date, location and your name and address will be posted on the PLT website

☐ Yes ☐ No

Proposed Workshop Agenda:

Please attach your proposed workshop format/agenda. Include the specific activities that you will be using from the guides.

Number of PLT Guides Needed:

PreK-8 _____ Spanish Translations _____ GreenWorks Guides: _____ Early Childhood (ages 3-6) _____

Modules:

Focus on Risk	_____	Focus on Forests	_____
Solid Waste	_____	Forests of the World	_____
Places We Live	_____	Energy & Society	_____

Send Workshop Proposal To:

State Parks return to:

M. Frances Stein, Bureau of State Parks Region 2 Office, 195 Park Road, Prospect, PA 16052 mastein@pa.gov

State Forests return to:

Jean Devlin, Bureau of Forestry Communications Section, 400 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA 17105 jedevlin@pa.gov

All others return to:

Martha Moore, Tyler Arboretum/PAEE, 515 Painter Road, Media, PA 19063 mmoore@tylerarboretum.org



PROJECT LEARNING TREE® FACILITATOR COVERSHEET

(Please fasten securely to accompanying PARTICIPANTS SURVEY FORMS and include workshop agenda.)

Facilitator Information:

Name: _____	Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____	Address: _____
_____	_____	_____
Email: _____	Email: _____	Email: _____
Phone: _____	Phone: _____	Phone: _____

Workshop Information:

Workshop Date _____	Workshop Type:	Was this a Joint Workshop?
Location (City, State) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Early Childhood <input type="checkbox"/> Secondary	<input type="checkbox"/> With WET
Workshop Length _____	<input type="checkbox"/> PreK-8 <input type="checkbox"/> Preservice	<input type="checkbox"/> With WILD
# of participants _____	<input type="checkbox"/> PreK-12 <input type="checkbox"/> Facilitator	<input type="checkbox"/> With WET & WILD
# of participant survey forms attached _____		
# PLT Guides Distributed:	Training in Online Modules:	Demonstration of Online Resources:
____ PreK-8 ____ Focus on Risk	<input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity	<input type="checkbox"/> Resources by Activity
____ Early Childhood ____ Solid Waste	<input type="checkbox"/> Biotechnology	<input type="checkbox"/> Online Community
____ Energy & Society ____ Places We Live	Discussion of Service-Learning:	<input type="checkbox"/> Earth & Sky
____ Focus on Forests ____ Forests of the World	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>GreenWorks!</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Branch Newsletter</i>
	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>GreenSchools!</i>	

Workshop Summary:

State Parks return to: M. Frances Stein, Bureau of State Parks Region Office 2, 195 Park Road, Prospect, PA 16052 mastein@pa.gov
State Forests return to: Jean Devlin, Bureau of Forestry Communications Section, 400 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA 17105 jedevlin@pa.gov
All others return to: Martha Moore, Tyler Arboretum/PAEE, 515 Painter Road, Media, PA 19063 mmoore@tylerarboretum.org

- Briefly outline your workshop format, specifying which PLT activities from the PreK-8, secondary modules, Early Childhood, or other PLT materials you included, or attach an agenda.
- Summarize expenses and/or revenues involved in your workshop. Include any in-kind support from local sources, for example, agency, community, or industry personnel or contributions.
- Tell us your overall view of the workshop – include problems/successes and your assessment of the participants' responses.
- I would _____ would not _____ be interested in facilitating another PLT workshop because:

Please complete one of these forms each time a different group of participants is involved. The PLT staff would like to thank you for your time and effort in providing this information.



PROJECT LEARNING TREE® PARTICIPANT SURVEY FORM (March 2014)

Thank you for your interest in Project Learning Tree (PLT), a program of the American Forest Foundation. Your comments are essential to ensuring PLT programs and materials are as useful as possible for all educators.

I. Workshop Information:

Please use a pen

Workshop Date: _____

Workshop Type:

Workshop Location: _____

☐ Early Childhood ☐ PreK-8 ☐ PreK-12

Workshop Facilitators: _____

☐ Secondary ☐ Preservice

II. Participant Information:

☐ Check box if you are interested in becoming a PLT facilitator

Name: _____

School/Organization: _____

Permanent Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

1. My position is: (check all that apply) ☐ Preschool Teacher ☐ Elementary Teacher ☐ Middle School Teacher

☐ High School Teacher ☐ Administrator ☐ Preservice/University Student ☐ Preservice Instructor

☐ Nonformal Educator (e.g. scout leader; resource professional, interpreter) ☐ Homeschool Educator

2. Year started teaching: _____

No. of students reached/year: ____ Student Demographics: ☐ Urban ☐ Suburban ☐ Rural

3. In what subjects will you use PLT? (check all that apply) ☐ Science ☐ Social Studies ☐ Math

☐ Language Arts ☐ Reading ☐ Physical Education ☐ Visual Arts ☐ Performing Arts ☐ Special Education

☐ Other: _____

4. How often do you think you will use PLT activities? ☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ Several times a year

5. How did you learn about PLT? (check all that apply) ☐ Colleague ☐ School Administrator

☐ Professional Organization ☐ Conference/Exhibit ☐ Publications (PLT newsletter, brochure, flyer, website)

☐ Media (magazine article, newspaper)

III. Workshop Evaluation:

	⊗ Disagree			Agree ☺	
A. The information, strategies, and instructional methods shared were helpful to you.	1	2	3	4	5
B. The workshop prepared you to use the PLT materials with your audience.	1	2	3	4	5
C. PLT materials will help you address state academic standards.	1	2	3	4	5
D. The facilitators for this workshop were:	Needs Improvement			Excellent	
E. Overall this workshop was:	1	2	3	4	5
F. The greatest value of the workshop for use with your audience was:	1	2	3	4	5
G. How could the workshop be improved?					
H. Additional Comments: Please use the back of this form.					

By providing us with your contact information you accept the practices described in Project Learning Tree's Privacy Policy, a copy of which can be found at www.plt.org.

Project Learning Tree

Certificate of Professional Development

This certifies that

has successfully completed a Project Learning Tree educator workshop



Date: _____

Workshop Facilitators: _____

Project Learning Tree® is the environmental education program of the American Forest Foundation and sponsored in Pennsylvania by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and the Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators (PAEE)

Note: the certificates are to be printed on letter size (8½” x 11”) green card/cover stock paper
– 65 lb or 67 lb weight

Project Learning Tree

Certificate of Professional Development

This certifies that

has successfully completed a PLT Early Childhood educator workshop



Date: _____

Workshop Facilitators: _____

Project Learning Tree® is the environmental education program of the American Forest Foundation and sponsored in Pennsylvania by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and the Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators (PAEE)

Note: the certificates are to be printed on letter size (8½" x 11") green card/cover stock paper
– 65 lb or 67 lb weight

Facilitator Expense Sheet
Project Learning Tree

Name _____ Phone (____) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Workshop Date(s) _____ Location _____

Facilitator Expenses:

Date	Mileage	From	To
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Total: _____ @\$(mileage rate) = \$ _____

Other Expenses: (Please attach receipts, i.e., supplies, food purchased...)

Amount

Total Other Expenses _____

Total All Expenses _____

Facilitator Signature



Appendix B: Publicity Ideas

This appendix contains *sample* flyers, announcements, and a confirmation letter. PLT logos, which you can use in designing your own workshop announcements, are available electronically from the State Coordinator.

- To Tell the PLT Story Locally...
- Sample News Release
- Sample Flyers (three examples)
- Sample Confirmation Letter
- Sample Photo Release Form
- Sample DCNR Photo Release Form (and guidelines)

To Tell the PLT Story Locally....

First, what's your goal?

- Most PLT facilitators want to publicize an upcoming workshop so that interested people can sign up and/or they want to create a “buzz” so that the community (parents, businesses, others) knows about the program.
- Your goal helps decide the best way to contact the media and what information to include. See the next pages for sample press releases for a workshop. The introduction and title is the most important part of the release. Often times, an editor will determine whether or not to write a story within the first ten seconds of reading your press release. Determine what your most important point is and include that in the first sentence and title of your press release. For example, you may want to highlight the training and resources provided to get kids learning outdoors; professional development for educators; eligibility for *GreenWorks!* grant funding, etc. What you choose for your “hook” will depend on the media outlet you are using to disseminate your news.

If you want to publicize an upcoming workshop to get attendees

- Figure out which newspapers, magazines, e-mail lists, association newsletters, and other media are read by your target attendees.
- Learn the deadlines and how to provide them information. Some publications require a mailed announcement; others accept e-mails. Some publish instructions about how to submit calendar listings. In other cases, you will need to make a few phone calls. A monthly magazine will have a long lead time, while an e-mail list, of course, is almost instantaneous.
- Repeat yourself! People often need to see the same information in a few different places before they take action. For example, if someone learns about your workshop through a school district training calendar, the local newspaper, and on a website, you have a much better chance that they will sign up than if they see it in just one place.

If you want media to attend a workshop or generally cover PLT

- Call to obtain the names of reporters in the press, TV, and radio who are most likely to cover stories on education and/or the environment. Media in larger cities will have someone who specializes in these areas. Smaller places may have a reporter or editor who covers a wider range of topics.
- Combine press releases with more personal contacts. You can send a press release about your PLT activities or an upcoming event, but chances are you will get a reporter interested through a phone call or visit.
- Look for opportunities to make that personal connection. You may find yourself at a School Board meeting, local fair, etc. that a reporter is covering. Great! Briefly introduce yourself and PLT, and say you will follow up with some information. (Don't talk too long--remember they are probably focusing on another assignment!)
- Work the local angle. A local newsletter is less interested in the national program than the participation of close-by teachers and children in the program. Concentrate on PLT activities in local schools, youth groups, parks.
- Take advantage of websites, blogs (a type of interactive journals in which others can post comments), e-mail lists, and other online ways to connect with people.

*[SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE: Mailed/Faxed version
Use your state PLT logo or your organization's letterhead]*

For Immediate Release
(DATE)

Contact: (YOUR NAME)
(YOUR PHONE)
(YOUR E-MAIL)

Learn to Teach Kids about the Environment at Project Learning Tree Workshop

(YOUR TOWN, STATE)---Teachers, youth group leaders, home school parents, and others who want to educate children about the environment can attend a Project Learning Tree (PLT) workshop, (DATE), from (TIME) at (PLACE).

PLT is an international, award-winning environmental education program for kids in grades PreK through 12. Through participation in PLT's engaging activities, students gain knowledge and develop critical thinking skills.

Participants in the workshop will learn how to use the activities and receive copies of PLT curriculum guides and other materials. They should bring lunch but other refreshments will be provided. Cost is only (XX) per person. **(ADD SENTENCE ABOUT CONTINUING ED CREDIT, IF APPLICABLE)**

For more information or to sign up for the workshop, contact (NAME) at (PHONE NUMBER) or (E-MAIL).

###

*Project Learning Tree® (www.plt.org) is the environmental education program of the American Forest Foundation. PLT provides educators with comprehensive environmental education curriculum resources that can be integrated into lesson plans for all grades and subject areas. Developed in 1976, PLT has an international network of more than 500,000 trained educators using PLT materials that cover the total environment. **[XX Organization(s) serve(s) as the state sponsor(s).]***



Project Learning Tree PreK-8 or Secondary Educator Workshops

- ❖ Become a Project Learning Tree certified educator.
- ❖ Engage in a hands-on workshop.
- ❖ Learn how to integrate environmental education, while also focusing on reading, technology, or differentiated instruction.
- ❖ Investigate local and global environmental topics with indoor and outdoor activities.
- ❖ Receive resources to help you take your students outdoors (www.learnoutside.org).
- ❖ Receive PLT's *PreK-8 Environmental Education Activity Guide* or topic specific secondary modules (on forest ecology, forest issues, solid waste, risk, biodiversity, and community/place-based issues), correlated to national and state academic standards. Go to www.plt.org and click on "Curriculum" for more.
- ❖ Become eligible (all PLT educators are eligible) to apply for a GreenWorks! environmental, service-learning grant (www.plt.org, click on GreenWorks!).

Call Cheryl Hayes (xxx-xxx-xxxx), Al Stenstrup (xxx-xxx-xxx) or Catherine Estes (xxx-xxx-xxxx) at Project Learning Tree, for more information on setting up a workshop for your school or a group of educators. Administrators, staff, and nonformal educators are welcome.

Project Learning Tree® is the environmental education program of the American Forest Foundation and sponsored in [state name] by [PLT local sponsor].





Project Learning Tree (PLT)

is an award-winning environmental education program designed for educators working with youth from Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 12. **PLT** is a source of interdisciplinary instructional activities and offers professional development training for teachers and other educators.

Project Learning Tree's activities help to increase students' awareness and knowledge of the world around them, as well as their place within it. Students learn to use critical and creative thinking skills, develop informed decisions on environmental issues, and gain confidence to take responsible action on behalf of the environment.

PLT Is People! It is an international network of teachers, parents, students, community leaders, educational administrators, representatives of natural resource organizations, museums, agencies, and industries - *all working together!*



**For a current list of PLT workshops,
go to www.plt.org.**



How Do You Get Involved?

You can obtain PLT activity guides by attending a workshop held at a nature center, school, or other location in your region.

You will become acquainted with PLT activities, meet and share ideas with educators and natural resource professionals, and learn more about the environment while expanding your teaching skills.

What Are The Benefits?

PLT activities can help you supplement your curriculum or develop thematic units. The activities are interdisciplinary, hands-on, and action-oriented. They require little special equipment or preparation time. Background information and instructional strategies - supportive of state academic standards and current educational reforms- are provided. PLT works well in urban or rural areas. Activities can easily be used with students learning English or having special needs. *Everyone learns and has fun!*

Workshops In Your Area

For more information visit PLT's website: www.plt.org or contact: **[Insert your contact information here]***



* Project Learning Tree® is the environmental education program of the American Forest Foundation and sponsored in [state name] by [PLT local sponsor].

Natural Resources Education: A look at **water**, **weeds**, and **wildfire**

Get *Fired Up* this summer at a **Free
2-day Workshop for Teachers and other educators**

Using the “Five E’s” of inquiry-based learning (Engage, Explore, Explain, Elaborate, and Evaluate), this workshop will help educators (teachers, home school parents, youth group leaders) introduce Grade 4-12 students to many important concepts essential to the conservation of natural resources – our water, soil, and biodiversity. Participants will try hands-on and inquiry-based lessons, work with natural resource experts, explore technology and language arts connections, and more.

Learn:

- ❖ how to address **content standards** through engaging, interdisciplinary, hands-on activities
- ❖ **teaching techniques** to help students investigate water, soil erosion, fire ecology, and land management issues
- ❖ to use **technology** to support an inquiry approach to teaching
- ❖ how to spark students’ interest through investigating their own environment using multidisciplinary strategies—language arts, science, math, and history.

Get:

- ❖ 12-hours of professional development credit
- ❖ A variety of Project Learning Tree and Project WET curriculum and support materials including “Burning Issues” CD-ROMs.

**July 26-27, 2006
9AM to 3 PM daily
Modoc County Office of Education
Conference Room
139 Henderson St., Alturas**

For more information and to register, contact:

Kathryn Hall, The River Center (xxx) xxx-xxx kathrynahall@yahoo.com
Kay Antunez, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (xxx) xxx-xxx, Kay.Antunez@fire.ca.gov
Brian Brown, Water Education Foundation (xxx) xxx-xxx, projectwet@watereducation.org

Project Learning Tree® is the environmental education program of the American Forest Foundation and sponsored in [state name] by [PLT local sponsor].

DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

P.O. Box 944246
 SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2460
 Website: www.fire.ca.gov
 <phone number>



January 10, 2006

Dear

I am pleased to confirm your registration in the **Project Learning Tree workshop** to be held at the Sonoma State University's Environmental Tech Center in Rohnert Park (Sonoma County), January 20, 2006 from 9 AM to 3 PM. Please review the agenda below. A map of the SSU campus has been included in this packet, and you can also find it online at the www.sonoma.edu/university/maps/pdf/ssucampus.pdf. You will need to purchase a \$2.50 parking pass at the machine (exact change needed).

Wear comfortable shoes and casual clothes so that you can participate in activities both inside and out-of-doors. Lunch will be provided, but please bring your own mug for beverages. Please let us know if you have any special needs.

You will be provided with a new 2006 edition of the PreK-8 PLT Guide and a variety of other materials that will be useful in bringing environmental education into your classroom or work with children. Please take time to view the PLT website – www.plt.org.

I look forward to working with you! Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. You can reach me by e-mail at: Kay.Antunez@fire.ca.gov or by telephone at (xxx) xxx-xxxx.

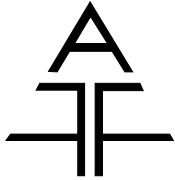
See you soon!

Kay Antunez
 California PLT Coordinator

Agenda

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 9 AM | Welcome, icebreaker – review agenda
Some background about PLT and environmental education
How does PLT address the California academic standards?
Let's try out some PLT activities that get students outside!
Meet an urban forester – finding help in your community |
| Noon | Lunch and a tour of the gardens |
| 12:30 | PLT "On the Spot" – a quick look at how PLT activities address CA standards

Hike through the guide
Planning to use PLT with your students - pick one activity you can use tomorrow!
GreenWorks! Helping students "take action" – grant opportunities |
| 2:30 | Q&As, evaluations, certificates – thank you! |
| 3:00 | End |



American Forest Foundation
1111 Nineteenth Street, NW
Suite 780
Washington, D.C. 20036
www.forestfoundation.org



Photo Release Form

Individuals over the age of 18 may sign for themselves; those under 18 must have this release signed by their parent or guardian.

I hereby consent to the use of this photograph of my child/dependent/self and/or any copies of this photograph in any editorial and/or promotional material produced and/or published by the American Forest Foundation's (AFF) program Project Learning Tree (PLT) and [add state sponsoring organization].

I understand that signing this release does not guarantee publication of the photo.

Name of person photographed (PLEASE PRINT)

Age (if minor)

Address

City, State, and Zip Code

Signature

Date

Consent of parent or legal guardian if above individual is a minor.

Signature

Relationship

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
BUREAU OF STATE PARKS

CONSENT TO USE OF PICTURE AND/OR VOICE
(PLEASE PRINT)

I, the undersigned, residing at:

Address: _____
City: _____
State: _____ Zip Code: _____

I do hereby give my written consent to the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, 400 Market Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, its successors, assigns and licensees and any agencies designated by the Department, to use my picture and/or voice for slide, print or film/video purposes, including the use of said pictures and/or recordings on television and in magazines and newspapers, and on the internet, in an appropriate manner consistent with the Department's policy and mission.

I understand that I will not receive any compensation, neither now or in the future, for the above.

WITNESS: My hand and seal this _____ day of _____ 20_____.

(Sign Here) _____

(Print Here) _____

WITNESS* _____

(If this consent is granted by a person less than 18 years old, it should also be signed below by parent or guardian).

I hereby individually and as (parent) (guardian) of the minor youth named above do consent to the foregoing.

(Sign Here) _____

(Print Here) _____

WITNESS* _____

(*note: *Witness may be the Commonwealth employee requesting this Consent Form*)

DCNR Consent Form (“Model Release”)

Guidelines for Use

Our culture and indeed our world have changed considerably in recent decades – what may have been acceptable at one time is completely unacceptable today. *Since they are in a public location voluntarily, their expectation of privacy can to some extent be assumed to be less. In general, the more “controlled” a situation is, the more our obligation may be to at least ask for a model release. Obviously if someone objects or is hesitant, the issue is settled. Avoid talking them into something if they have doubts.*

There are obviously countless scenarios, so ultimately you will need to use your best judgment. Here are some typical examples.

Consent form recommended, or ask them:

1. You draft someone you don’t know to stand beside the park or forest district sign and smile
2. Folks that just happen to be a prominent part of the photo
3. **Special caution** – kids, both with and without their parents present!
4. School or other organized groups: do individual consent forms prior to their arrival.

Consent form optional (but you can still ask), or would be difficult or impractical to obtain:

1. Family, friends, acquaintances, employees – you ask them to pose for you and they agree
2. Implied consent – although you can still obtain a Consent form
 - You approach a park picnic table and they see your camera, wave to you and smile
 - Commonwealth Media Services: displays a large sign at a video or photographic shoot site that tells folks to avoid the area if they do not want to be part of the project
 - You line up a group ahead of time to do setups – e.g., CMS used a Civil War reenactment group; you could still do a Consent form for the group but the consent of each individual would be implied by their willingness to attend and remain.
3. General photo of beach with 400 people on it – no one recognizable.
4. You are standing along a rail trail with your camera, clearly visible as folks walk, jog, or ride past you; if they keep going you are probably fine – chasing after everyone would not be practical and would probably alienate some. If they stop and talk, you can ask. If they object, they will probably say something – honor their request immediately and courteously. You could also post a sign as CMS suggests.



Appendix C: Sample Workshop Agendas

This appendix contains sample agendas that you can use to plan and conduct your workshop.

- Six hour pre-service workshop for college students (2 days)
- Six hour in-service workshop for elementary teachers
- Six and a half-hour PreK-8 Workshop
- Six-Hour PreK-12 Workshop with an awareness-to-action storyline
- Six and a half-hour PreK-8 Workshop that focuses on energy
- Multi-Session PreK-8 (focus on middle school) Staff Development Workshop on the topic of natural resources
- Multi-Session PreK-8 Workshop on a Special Topic - technology and EE
- Two-Day Workshop on a Special Topic - recycling and municipal solid waste
- Two-Hour Secondary Module Workshop on *Municipal Solid Waste*
- Three-Hour Secondary Module Workshop on *Places We Live*
- Seven-Hour Secondary Workshop on PLT and Biofuel Research
- Three-Hour Secondary Module Workshop on *Places We Live* and *Focus on Risk*
- Fifteen-Hour, One Credit PreK-12 and Fire Workshop
- Six and a half-hour Early Childhood Workshop
- Week-Long Teacher Institute – FIT (Forest Institute for Teachers)
- PLT embedded into Preservice Syllabus

Proposed Project Learning Tree Workshop Format/Agenda (6 hours)

6 hour pre-service
workshop for
college students

Workshop Type/Guide: Pre-Service/PreK-8 Environmental Education Activity Guide

Audience: college students – park and recreation major

Date: spring semester 2013 (2 class periods, one week between classes to prep activity assignments)

Location: Butler County Community College, Pennsylvania

Day One:

Introduction	(25 minutes)
Socialization Activity – <i>We All Need Trees-Part B</i>	
What Is Project Learning Tree?	
Background Information	
Overview of PLT activities	
Workshop objectives for Day One and Day Two	
Experiencing PLT: facilitator-led activities	(1 hour, 50 minutes)
<i>Tree Factory</i>	
<i>Trees For Many Reasons</i>	
<i>Living With Fire</i>	
<i>Forest Consequences</i>	
Hike Through Project Learning Tree	(10 minutes)
Hand out PreK-8 Guides	
Explore guides through use of questions	
Preparing to present a PLT activity	(15 minutes)
Review of Activity Components	
Objectives and Concepts	
Grade Level/Audience	
Background and Getting Ready	
Introduction, Presentation, Conclusion (putting it all together)	
Participant PLT Activity Assignments	(15 minutes)
Participants choose partners and choose an activity to lead for Day Two (a list of selected activities representing a variety of learning styles, conceptual themes and settings can be posted for participants to choose from the list)	
Conclusion of Day One	(5 minutes)

Day Two:

Introduction	(5 minutes)
Review of program procedure for the day	
Experiencing PLT: participant-led activities	(2 hours, 30 minutes)
6-8 activities to be facilitated with peers and discussed	
Integrating PLT	(15 minutes)
Using PLT and review of resources	
Creating your own PLT Trunk	
Discussion of value of PLT curriculum/use of activities	
Wrap Up and Evaluation	(10 minutes)
Participants complete Participant Survey Forms	
Hand out PLT Certificates	



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Proposed Project Learning Tree Workshop Format/Agenda (6 hours)

6 hour in-service
workshop for
elementary teachers

Workshop Type/Guide: In-Service/PreK-8 Environmental Education Activity Guide

Audience: elementary teachers

Location: local Pennsylvania State Park

8:30-9:00am	Welcome and Introduction Socialization Activity – <i>Peppermint Beetle-Enrichment</i> (Diversity) What Is Project Learning Tree? Background Information Overview of PLT activities Workshop objectives
9:00-10:45am	Experiencing PLT: facilitator-led activities* <i>Birds and Worms</i> (Interrelationships) <i>Make Your Own Paper</i> (Systems) <i>Tree Factory</i> (Structure and Scale) <i>Trees For Many Reasons</i> (Patterns of Change) *Allow a break for participants as needed
10:45-11:00am	Hike Through Project Learning Tree Hand out PreK-8 Guides Explore guides through use of questions
11:00-11:15am	Preparing to Present a PLT activity Review of Activity Components
11:15-12:00pm	Participant PLT Activity Assignments Participants form small groups of 3 or 4 people and choose an activity to lead in the afternoon. (A list of selected activities representing a variety of learning styles, conceptual themes and settings can be posted for participants to choose from the list. Equipment can be available for these activities)
12:00-12:30pm	Lunch
12:30-3:00pm	Experiencing PLT: participant-led activities* 4-5 activities to be facilitated with peers and discussed *Allow a break for participants as needed
3:00-3:15pm	Integrating PLT Using PLT and review of resources Creating your own PLT Trunk Discussion of value of PLT curriculum/use of activities
3:15-3:30pm	Wrap Up and Evaluation Participants complete Participant Survey Forms Hand out PLT Certificates



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**Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve
December 6, 2006**

Project Learning Tree PreK-8 Workshop

Project Learning Tree
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Mission of PLT

PLT uses the forest as a "window on the world" to increase students' understanding of our complex environment; to stimulate critical and creative thinking; to develop the ability to make informed decisions on environmental issues; and to instill the confidence and commitment to take responsible action on behalf of the environment.

Goals of the PLT Program:

- Provide students with the awareness, appreciation, understanding, skills, and commitment to address environmental issues.
- Enable students to apply scientific processes and higher order thinking skills to resolve environmental problems.
- Help students acquire an appreciation and tolerance of diverse viewpoints on environmental issues, and develop attitudes and actions based on analysis and evaluation of the available information.
- Encourage creativity, originality, and flexibility to resolve environmental problems and issues.
- Inspire and empower students to become responsible, productive, and participatory members of society.

Goals of the Workshop:

- Share with participants how to use the PreK-8 PLT Environmental Education Activity Guide
- Participate in selected PLT Activities
- Develop an implementation plan to add PLT activities into your program
- Learn about the programs of the Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve
- Background information on the natural resources of Virginia

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Agenda:

- 9:00 Goals of Workshop
- 9:15 PLT Introduction and Background Information
 - Activity: Activity 63: Tree Factory
 - Activity Components: What is in a PLT Activity? (Intro pages 10-11)
 - Activity 5: Poet Tree
- 10:45 Outdoor Activities (Nature Deficit – page 5)
 - Activity 27: Every Tree for Itself
 - Activity 67: How Big is Your Tree?
- 11:30 How to Use PLT Correlations and Virginia SOL's
 - Using the "Lesson Planning Worksheet" (Pages 470-471)
- Noon Lunch
- 12:30 History of Preserve – Director of Banshee Reeks
- 1:00 PLT – The Next Generation
 - Reading Connections (Intro pages 7-8)
 - Activity 8: The Forest of S.T. Shrew
 - Review of Literature Books on Resource Table
 - Technology Connections (Intro pages 8-9 and Appendix 8)
 - Activity 84: The Global Climate
- 1:45 Outdoor Activity
 - Differentiated Instruction (Intro pages 6-7 and Appendix 7)
 - Activity 44: Water Wonders
 - Activity 23: The Fallen Log
- 2:45 PLT Professional Development and Curriculum Connections (Intro p. 12-14) Powerpoint
 - PLT Website: www.plt.org
 - Earth & Sky
 - Urban and Community Forestry
 - GreenWorks!
- 3:00 Small Group Discussion Questions
- 3:20 Evaluation – Thanks for participating!!

Small Group Discussion:

How can PLT be integrated into your school program?

What additional EE resources would be helpful to you?

What possible GreenWorks! projects might you propose for your school or community?

For further information on Banshee Reeks visit: <http://www.bansheereeks.org/>

For further information on PLT visit: www.plt.org

For further information on Virginia PLT visit: www.cnr.vt.edu/plt

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PROJECT LEARNING TREE WORKSHOP

A 6-hour PreK–12 workshop with
an awareness-to-action storyline

Theme

“Taking Action for Trees in Our Community”

Awareness

(building an awareness of trees)

(Ambience)

The site – Posters, books, etc.

(Icebreaker)

Introductions: “Fond tree memory”
Orientation to site/workshop goals

(Speaker)

Chris Nelson, Institute of Forest Genetics, USDA-Forest Service

(Discussion)

What is PLT and what are PLT workshops?

Knowledge/Skills

(developing knowledge and understanding of trees)

(Discussion)

Environmental Education (EE): PLT’s role
How is PLT involved in educational reform efforts?

(Activities)

Sample several PLT activities to demonstrate:
Constructivist and thematic approaches; and an emphasis on skills building, cooperative learning, and a hands-on approach

PreK-3:

Shapes of Things (1); Adopt a Tree (21);
Looking at Leaves (64); Pass the Plants, Please (16);
To Be a Tree (62)

4-8:

Closer You Look (61); Tree Cookies (76)
Name That Tree (68); Trees in Trouble (77)

9-12

What’s a Forest to You (1); Cast of Thousands (2)

(Debrief)

Report back about activities

(Activity)

Hike through the PLT PreK–8 Guide

(Activity)

Additional Activities: divide into small groups and find another activity that would support exploration of role of trees in our community

(Resource Sharing)

Additional contacts, references (from participants and leader), and additional PLT resources (PLT website; Resources by Activity web pages; Earth & Sky; Urban Forestry Web Resource; Every Student Learns Outside Initiative; and *Branch* newsletter)

Challenge

How can I use PLT? Group planning time.

Action

Taking Action: an introduction to PLT’s “Greenworks!” Program
And other “action” opportunities – celebration and certificates

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May 16, 2007
PLT Energy
PreK-8 Workshop

- 9:00 Welcome, Introductions
- 9:15 Icebreaker Activity: Renewable or Not
- 9:30 Go Over Agenda, Goals (why are you here?), PLT Goals
- 9:45 History of PLT
- 10:00 Activity: Energy Detectives
- 10:15 Dancing with Billy B.
- 10:30 A Hike Through the Guide(s)
- 10:45 Activity: May the Source Be with You
- 11:15 Energy and Society kit
- 11:30 Activity: Energy Chains
- 12:00 Lunch**
- 12:30 Activity: Water Wonders
- 1:00 Dancing with Billy B.
- 1:15 PLT and Curriculum Planning (Use PLT Lesson Planning Worksheet)
- 2:00 Activity: In the Driver's Seat
- 2:30 PLT Resources (Correlations to National and State Standards; Earth & Sky correlations; PLT Website; *Branch* newsletter; Every Student Learns Outside™; etc)
- 3:15 Evaluation/Wrap Up

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Middle School All-Staff PLT Workshop

A PreK-8 multi-session staff development workshop

Session I

- 1:00-3:00 Introduction to PLT –(use PowerPoint)
Try out 2-3 middle school PLT activities, including: “Renewable or Not” (Popcorn Generation)
Overview of PLT’s secondary program materials; Survey of interest

Session II

- 1:00 -1:15 All “Few of My Favorite Things” (#15-page 75)
Icebreaker: Have items on each table that link to the other activities Question: *How have these items impacted renewable/non-renewable natural resources? Discuss - brainstorm*
Question: *Where does [school’s name] water and energy come from? Where does our waste go?*
- 1:15-2:15 Overview of workshop: Describe that we are providing “ideas” of how PLT activities can provide links to study/research of their “problem” as a way to introduce the PLT program.
- Break into Three “strands” (**waste, water, energy**)
Purpose: teams see how PLT can be used to develop “awareness to action” – thematic units; Point out how activities 1) are multidisciplinary; 2) incorporate differentiated instruction, and 3) connect to reading and technology
- WASTE STRAND: “Resource Go Around” (#82); “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (#37); “Make Your Own Paper” (#51)
WATER STRAND: “Water Wonders” (#44); “Every Drop Counts” (#38); “Watch on Wetlands” (#71)
ENERGY STRAND: “In the Driver’s Seat” (#85); “Energy Sleuths” (#39); “Waste Watchers” (#73)
- 2:15-2:30 Debrief (each group reports out)
- 2:30-2:45 “Hike through the PreK–8 Guide”
- 2:45-3:00 Assignment: Teams scope out what PLT activities they can use and each teacher tries out an activity before next meeting.

Session III

- 1:00-1:15 Icebreaker: “Viewpoints on the Line” (#19)
- 1:15-1:45 Review of activities from Session II; Did they use others? How did the various disciplines get integrated?
- 1:45-2:15 “The Global Climate” (# 84) – and Introduction to Earth & Sky partnership
- 2:15-2:45 Additional PLT resources: PowerPoint presentation on PLT website, Resources by Activity pages, GreenWorks!, Urban Forestry Web Resource, Every Student Learns Outside Initiative, and Branch Newsletter
- 2:45-3:00 Questions, Evaluations, and Certificates

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Integrate Technology & EE into Your Classroom with Project Learning Tree

Day One

- 4:00-4:30 Introductions – Icebreaker
- 4:30-5:00 Overview of PLT/Distribute Guides
- 5:00-5:30 Hike through the Guide
Tech in PreK–8: Tech Connections in Activities; Earth & Sky; Urban Forestry
Web Resource
- 5:30-6:15 Activity: The Shape of Things (#1)
Technology Connections: Spreadsheet; Graphic Organizer; Digital Camera
- 6:15-7:00 Lead activity: Can It Be Real? (#11)
Technology Connections: Presentation Software; Internet Resources; Earth & Sky
radio show

Homework assignment: Choose two PLT activities that incorporate technology and conduct them in your class. Be prepared to report back on Day Two.

Day Two

- 4:00-4:45 Report back on homework assignment
- 4:45-6:30 Overview of PLT activities & Technology Connections (Tree Factory #63, Power
of Print #59, and The Global Climate #84)
- 6:30-7:15 Additional PLT resources: PLT website; Resources by Activity webpages; Every
Student Learns Outside; GreenWorks!; and the *Branch* newsletter
- 7:15-7:30 Q/A, evaluations, certificates.

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Where is “Away”??
Exploring Environmental Issues: Municipal Solid Waste
Project Learning Tree PreK-12 Workshop

A PreK-12 2-day Waste & Recycling Workshop for one Continuing Education Unit

August 14 & 15, 2007
 Republic Services of NC, Material Recovery Facility (MRF)
 Conover, NC



AGENDA

August 14th

8:30 a.m. Welcome and Introductions (recycling icebreaker)
 #14 Renewable or Not? (PreK-8 Guide)
 #83 A Peek at Packaging (PreK-8 Guide)
 One group tours MRF; other Hikes through the PLT Guide, then switch

Noon LUNCH! and RE3.org and Recycle Guys Program Overview

1:00 p.m. Let's Continue:
 #4 Composting and Vermicomposting (MSW Module)
 Successful Composting presentation – Brian Rosa
 Make vermi-bins to take home!
 #3 Recycling and Economics (MSW Module)
 North Carolina Facts & Figures – Kelley Dennings
 #37 Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (PreK-8 Guide)

School Recycling Programs – Kelley

4:00 pm Wrap Up: Tomorrow's schedule, questions, comments

August 15th

8:00 a.m. Good Morning!
 #6 Landfills (MSW Guide)
 Catawba County's Landfill and future EcoCenter
 Amanda Kain – Catawba County Waste Reduction

9:30 a.m. Tours of Landfill, Recycling areas, methane recovery facility, green power lumber facility, and future EcoCenter facilities/programs

11:30 a.m. Return to Republic MRF
 Wrap-up, comments, questions, evaluations, certificates, credit forms

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Municipal Solid Waste Workshop

Agenda

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. PLT History, Mission, and Goals
- III. Icebreaker – Environmental Bingo
- IV. Why Study Solid Waste?
 - Everyone creates waste – ask participants “What types of waste do you generate?”
 - Waste creates potential health hazards and environmental problems
 - Connections with products purchased, use of natural resources, and waste generated
 - More informed citizens have potential to develop better solutions to our waste problems
- V. Activity #1, Part A – Waste Not, Want Not
- VI. Enrichment #1, The Throw Away Quiz (Appendix 4)
- VII. Activity #6, Part B – Siting a Landfill
- VII. A Hike through the Guide
- VIII. Activity #3, Recycling and Economics
 - Overview of the activity and discussion of local recycling efforts
- IX. Time for small group discussions of how they will use the module –
PLT Lesson Planning Worksheet
- X. Additional PLT Resources: Website, Earth & Sky Correlations, Branch Newsletter
- XI. Wrap-up, Questions, Evaluations, Adjourn

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American Canyon Middle School December 13, 2006

Exploring Environmental Issues: Places We Live Workshop

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Goals of the Workshop:

1. Provide an introduction to the *Places We Live* secondary module
2. Conduct sample *Places We Live* activities and develop an implementation plan

Goals of the PLT Module:

1. To give students skills and knowledge to be active participants in shaping their community;
2. To connect students to the places they live (or highlight that connection) so they will care about and influence the decisions being made about those places;
3. To give students an awareness of environmental, social, and economic issues connected to community growth and change;
4. To give students an awareness that their choices impact the environment and the quality of life in communities near and far.

Agenda:

1:00-1:30	Welcome/Introductions/What's PLT?
1:30-2:00	Icebreaker- Activity 1: Personal Places
2:00-2:15	Overview of Places Module
2:15-2:45	Activity 2: Community Character (and Community of Choices DVD)
2:45-3:15	Activity 3: Mapping Your Community through Time
3:15-3:30	Activity 5: Green Space overview (and connection to Earth & Sky)
3:30-3:45	Additional PLT Resources: PLT website, Resources by Activity webpages, Urban Forestry Web Resource, Every Student Learns Outside Initiative, GreenWorks!, and the <i>Branch</i> newsletter
3:45-4:00	How will you use Places?; Questions; Evaluations; and Certificates

Visit PLT's website for more information at: www.plt.org

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REFINING TREES

Presented by Project Learning Tree (PLT) and
University of Maine – Forest Bioproducts Research Project (FBRP)

A Secondary Workshop

Workshop Objective: Teachers will learn about current alternative biofuel research under development at the University of Maine and connect this information to their science, math, and technology curriculum using Project Learning Tree and other related curriculum materials.

8:00 am

- Open for Registration
- Pick a Random Number for Learning Station Assignment (Task is to visit assigned learning station, review activity, and formulate ideas on how you would integrate into your curriculum. At the end of the workshop be prepared to make a brief presentation on how you would use this displayed activity in the classroom)
- Visit other Learning Stations

9:10 am

- Introductions
 - Facilitators
 - Pat Maloney, Maine Project Learning Tree
 - Don Sprangers, Washington Academy
 - Kenneth Laustsen, Maine forest service
 - Attendees

9:25 am

- The Decision Making Process: How do we make decisions about environmental issues? A look at values & consequences associated with change – Don
- Activity #6 – Weighing the Options: A Look at Tradeoffs, Part B (*Exploring Environmental Issues: Focus on Risk*) “The Great Debate: Cost/Benefit Analysis” – Ken

9:45 am

- Activity #2 – Cast of Thousands (*The Changing Forest: Forest Ecology*)- share PLT resources by activity webpages
 - FIG – setting up a forest inventory plot, layout, data forms, tools, data collection, data entry, current participants – Don
 - LMS – Computer simulation of FIG data into future, adding harvest, determining changes in growth and composition - Ken

10:45 am

- Break – Visit Learning Stations (remember your assignment)

11:00 am

- Energy Sleuths – Introductory Handbook for Secondary Modules, pg. 36 (or PreK-8 Guide, Activity 39)– Ken

11:30 am

- Dave Wilby, Executive Director, Independent Energy Producers of Maine, guest speaker, approx. 20 minute presentation and 20 minute Q&A session.

12:10 pm

- Lunch

12:40 pm

- Batching Biodiesel in the classroom – Don

1:10 pm

- Appendix 8, Exploring Environmental Issues: Focus on Risk, pg. 216, “The Count of Monte Carlo” – Ken

1:40 pm

- Dr. Hemant Pendse, guest speaker from UME – FBRP, approx. 20 minute presentation and 20 minute Q&A session.

2:20 pm

- Break – Visit Learning Stations

2:30 pm

- Attendees report on assigned Learning Station
- Closure – Reflections on values, getting informed, and confirming benefits

Learning Stations

1. Batching Biodiesel – How to (Don)
2. Activity #2 – Cast of Thousands (*The Changing Forest: Forest Ecology*) – Tree soup – indoor inventory sampling of the forest and calculating the composition (Ken)
3. Activity #5 – Waste to Energy (*Exploring Environmental Issues: Municipal Solid Waste*) (Ken)

Facilitators:

Ken Laustsen, Biometrician, Maine Forest Service xxx-xxx-xxxx ken.laustsen@maine.gov

Don Sprangers, Science Teacher & Envirothon Coach, Washington Academy
d.sprangers@washingtonacademy.org

Patricia Maloney, Coordinator, Maine Project Learning Tree xxx-xxx-xxxx meplt@zwi.net

Speakers:

David Wilby, Executive Director, Independent Energy Producers of Maine

Dr. Hemant Pendse, Chair – Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering, FBRP
Managing Director, University of Maine

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March 5, 2007
Towson University
PLT Secondary Workshop

*Exploring Environmental Issues: Places
We Live
and
Exploring Environmental Issues:
Focus on Risk*

Goals of the Workshop:

1. Provide an introduction to the *Places We Live* and *Focus on Risk* secondary modules.
2. Conduct sample activities and consider an implementation plan.

Goals of the Places module are to help students:

1. Gain skills and knowledge to be active participants in shaping their community.
2. Connect to the places they live (or highlight that connection) so they will care about and influence the decisions being made about those places.
3. Become aware of environmental, social, and economic issues connected to community growth and change.
4. Become aware that their choices impact the environment and the quality of life in communities near and far.

Goals of the Risk module are to help students:

1. Understand how risk is defined by risk assessors.
2. Understand how risk is evaluated, communicated, and perceived by experts and lay people.
3. Understand that risk is a part of everyday life.
4. Begin to identify risks, costs, and benefits associated with environmental issues.
5. Understand the basics of risk assessment.
6. Apply critical thinking skills to real-world choices and policies.
7. Recognize the important role that risk plays in developing environmental policy, U.S. policy in general, and personal risk decisions.

Agenda:

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 12:00 p.m. | Welcome/Introductions |
| 12:15 pm. | Icebreaker (Places- Activity 1: Personal Places) |
| 12:45 p.m. | Overview of PLT Secondary Modules |
| 1:00 p.m. | Places- Activity 2: Community Character |
| 1:30 p.m. | Places- Activity 3: Mapping Your Community through Time |
| 2:00 p.m. | Risk- Activity 1: What is Risk? |
| 2:25 p.m. | Risk Module Overview |
| 2:30 p.m. | Risk- Activity 2: Things Aren't Always What They Seem |
| 2:50 p.m. | Questions and Evaluation |

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Project Learning Tree 15-hour, 1 Credit Workshop (PreK-12 and Fire)

Friday

- 4:00 Sign in, make name tags, mingle, welcome
Icebreaker (**We All Need Trees** - #13)--**SK**
Introductions (including discussion of how we teach/learn about the environment, and what makes up a good EE activity)
Overview of PLT–Objectives, History, Sponsors--**MY**
- 4:45 **Adopt-A-Tree** (#21)--**MY**
- 5:20 Distribute Activity Guides/Modules and sticky notes
Window shopping (a couple minutes to look through the guide)
Open the guide to p. 97, Adopt a Tree
How might you use this activity with students?
What materials do you need? What subjects does the activity use?
What grade levels? What skills?
How might you modify the activity for your students?
How would you assess student work?
Review of PLT activity components
#, name, overview, sidebar (note icons for technology, diff. instruction),
background, “doing the activity,” assessment, reading connections, student page,
related activities (in sidebar)
Look up two “Related Activities.” (Show them the alphabetical index.)
In small groups, share what you found. (Describe the activities, how they relate to this one, etc.)
- 5:45 **Poet-Tree** (#5) --**SK**
Read from Insectlopedia. Also highlight technology connection with use of slides.
Brainstorm about other media that could be used.
- 6:15 DINNER
- 6:45 **Tree Factory** (#63)--**SK**
Review content-oriented sections of the activity guide/module. Background, glossary, and topic index. Go to PLT's PreK-8 Guide Resources by Activity webpages and review Urban & Community Forestry website connections to this activity.
Find some activities of interest from the *topic index*. Look them up, tab them, or make a list. Share with people around you.
- 7:15 **Tree Cookies** (#76)--**MY**
What kind of information would you need to feel comfortable doing this activity with your students?
Where can you find that info? *Appendix 4, 5, 6, and 9. PLT/IFPC office and websites, agencies, businesses, local info and publications, etc.*
- 8:00 BREAK
- 8:15 **Every Tree for Itself** (#27)—**SK**
Go to PLT's PreK-8 Guide Resources by Activity webpages and play one of the Earth & Sky radio show correlations (have speakers hooked up to computer).

- 8:45 Discuss outside assignment--**MY**
Credit registration
Assignment: Read pages 100-107 in Forest Ecology module. Bring buds!
Good night!

Saturday

- 8:00 Welcome, Overview, What do you know about fire? (quick large-group share)
PLT FIRE Bingo--**SK**
- 8:30 "Two Sides of Fire" video (16 min.)
Living with Fire (#81, p. 350 and H.S. FE, #7). **Fire Management** (#8)
Brainstorm +’s and -’s of fire (H.S. FE, p. 86). (5 min.)--**SK**
Review Fire Triangle (10 min.)—**SK**
Highlight technology connection (www.nifc.gov) in enrichment of #81.
Highlight SAFETY notation in guide.
Fire and Fuels (#81, Extension) (~30 min.)--**SK**
Fire Tag (#81, Variation) (~15 min.)--**MY**
Every Tree for Itself, cont’d. (Fire variations) (~15 min.)--**SK**
- 10:00 BREAK
- 10:15 **Forest Health and Fire** (FE, #8, p. 96)--**SK**
- 11:00 **"Burning Issues" CD-ROM**—introduction and Southern Pine Ecoventure--**MY**
- 12:15 LUNCH
- 12:45 **Bursting Buds** (# 65)--**MY**
- 1:15 PLT on the Spot--**SK**
- 1:45 Using PLT to Meet Your Needs--**MY**
Review Enrichments, App. 2 (conceptual framework), App. 3 (storylines), App. 7 & 8, Indices, and App. 10-15.
Correlations to state standards
(Planning for Success: Introduction to AKCA (constructivism). Order matters!)
Create a “Quick List”
- 2:00 Peer teaching planning
- 2:30 Peer teaching
- 4:00 BREAK (and help with cleanup)
- 4:15 Review additional PLT resources: *Branch* newsletter, Every Student Learns Outside™ Initiative, website, etc.
Wrap-up. Review objectives. Review questions we used at the beginning of the workshop.
- 4:45 Evaluations and Thanks for coming!

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Minnesota
PLT Early Childhood Workshop Agenda (Facilitator Copy)
Saturday, Jan. 13, 2007 9 – 3:30 pm
Prairie Wetlands Learning Center, Fergus Falls, MN

A 6.5-hour Early
Childhood
Workshop

Workshop goals:

1. Identify best practices when working with very young children.
2. Introduce PLT as a tool for teaching young children.
3. Demonstrate methods for teaching outside with young children.

8:45	Arrive- coffee, tea, snacks? (PWLC provides hot H2O)	Facilitator Notes
9:00	Sign in, pick up agendas & “Children Under 6 Matching Game”. Icebreaker: Distribute one sound canister to each person – find your matching sound	
9:15	Introductions (Laura Duffey) Facility history (Laura Bonneau, PWLC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pass out <i>PLT Early Childhood Supplement</i> and name labels. • Pass out Dept of Ed’s <i>Alignment of Minn. K-12 Kindergarten Academic Standards with the EC Indicators of Progress: Minn’s Early Learning Standards</i>. • Explain that the EC Supplement MUST be used with the preK-8 Activity Guide. 	Connecting to State Standards
9:30	PLT Early Childhood Activity The Shape of Things pg. 3 MAIN – Make shape necklaces COGNITIVE: Leaf Match Game MUSIC: Leaf Song Potty break MAIN: I Spy – OUTSIDE	Make and take model. Use of music and movement.
10:15	Break SNACK: Shape Snack	
10:30	Learning theory: Cut-list puzzle: Characteristics of learners younger and older than age 6. Learning styles of very young children. Use of music and movement. Why EE is a natural fit for early childhood?	Purpose- to orient educators about learning styles of very young children
11:00	ART: Clay Pictures (clay recipe) can do during discussion Learning theory: White board discussion. Write categories on board: Time Frame, Program/Play Structure, Teaching Methods, Physical Set-up, Routine, Space, Materials, Curriculum, Outside. Use handout: “Creating an Environment of Opportunity.”	Purpose- participants share experiences of own teaching methods best practices done or observed.
11:30	PLT PreK-8 Activity (Laura Bonneau) <i>Have Seeds Will Travel –OUTSIDE collect seeds outside using paper bags, masking tape wristbands, and/or socks.</i> Do sorting inside. Debrief- Show how activities address science standards from <i>Alignment</i> document (page 24)	Purpose- sample an activity from the PreK-8 guide
12:00	LUNCH - BYO	
12:30	Distribute <i>PLT PreK-8 Activity Guides</i> Policies, indices Pass out <i>Natural Wonders</i> guides (Available online)	

12:40	Discussion: Teaching Outside (Appendix 14, page 449) <i>Write headings on board:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Why don't educators explore outdoors more?</i> • What are possible behavior issues with exploring the outdoors? • Tips for teaching outside. 	Visit PLT Every Student Learns Outside website
1:00	Teach back time Give small groups 20 minutes to read about and demonstrate activities. Each group will choose one of the following activity kits to demonstrate. "How Big is Your Tree?" "Nature Adventure" "Get in Touch with Trees" "Signs of Fall" "Tree Life Cycle" "What Can You Hear in the Forest/Prairie?" <i>From K-8 guide:</i> "Every Tree for Itself" "Birds and Worms" "Sounds Around" Part A "Peppermint Beetle"	
1:20	Small group demonstration time – 4 activities @ 20 min each plus one 10-min break (lay out Textured Gorp activity snack)	Purpose- Give a hands-on creative opportunity to participate.
2:20	Activity 22: Trees As Habitat Read Aloud <i>Good Night Owl</i> Discuss Reading Connections in the PreK-8 Guide. Give some time for participants to review Reading Connections.	Bring Sample Reading Connections Books from the activities used.
2:45	Go over resources, book display items, GreenWorks!	
2:55	Book exploration time —give participants a chance to find activities and tab. Use Lesson Planning Worksheet (page 470) Share ideas.	
3:15	Prizes, Evaluations, Certificates	
3:30	End	

Back up if extra time – demonstrate PLT activities not chosen by small groups.

Key Components to consider when planning Early Childhood Workshops:

- * The workshop must be at least 6 hours long
- * Allocate adequate time for an overview on EC pedagogy, using the Natural Wonders book (free on <http://www.seek.state.mn.us/publications/naturalwonders-0.pdf>). Many EC providers have not had limited EC pedagogy or college-level courses on EC methods.
- * Whenever possible, practice what EC preaches: Examples--Have enough materials so that each participant can do/make the activity; set up activity stations and allow free choice, practice asking open-ended questions.
- * Practice what EE preaches: Examples-- demonstrate proper techniques for outdoor learning with young children, take a potty break before going outside, etc.
- * If you aren't an EC "expert," invite one to co-present with you. Because of the number of materials needed to properly present these workshops, co-facilitators are always recommended.
- * These are great workshops! This audience is searching for activities like PLT offers. It is a great match. Once you get your activity kits set up, it is an easy workshop to prepare for!

Project Learning Tree® is the environmental education program of the American Forest Foundation and sponsored in [state name] by [PLT local sponsor].



FORESTRY INSTITUTE FOR TEACHERS

U. C. FORESTRY CAMP, PLUMAS COUNTY June 18 – June 24, 2006



A week-long PreK–12
teacher institute

Sunday, June 18

3:00-4:00		Registration & Pre-assessment
4:00-5:00	CF	Orientation with Foresters (Tour Camp & Keying Activity)
5:00-5:45	CF	Introductions- <u>Mike De Lasaux</u> , U. C. Cooperative Extension & <u>Nancy Jones</u> , Education Consultant/Teacher
5:45-6:00	CF	Grounds Orientation - <u>Jim Schaber</u> , U. C. Forestry Camp Manager
6:00-7:00	PA	BBQ
7:00-8:45	DH	Forest Consequences Activity – PLT PreK–8 #33 (<u>Staff</u>)
8:45	CF	Campfire

Monday, June 19

7:00-8:00	DH	BREAKFAST
8:00-8:45	DH	Introductions & Overview- <u>Mike De Lasaux</u> & <u>Nancy Jones</u>
8:45-11:00	DH	Democracy In Action Activity – PLT PreK–8 #57 (California Forestry Perspectives) Facilitator- <u>Mike De Lasaux</u> , Public Forest Management- <u>Terri Simon-Jackson</u> , Plumas National Forest National Park Service- <u>Louise Johnson</u> , Lassen Volcanic National Park State Regulatory- <u>Andrea Tuttle</u> , Former Director, California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection Private Industrial Forest Management- <u>Frank Barron</u> , Crane Mills Private Non-Industrial Forest Management- <u>Pete Thill</u> , Penman Timber Environmental Perspective- <u>Chad Hanson</u> , John Muir Project, Earth Island Institute
11:00-11:15		BREAK
11:15-12:00	CF	Project Learning Tree- <u>Kay Antunez</u> , California Department of Forestry
12:00-12:30	CF	SACK LUNCH (optional questions & reflection)
12:30-4:30	CF	Forest Resources Management Sessions and Curricular Connections
	SH	Station 1 - Fire and Fuels Management, <u>Jerry Hurley</u> , retired Plumas NF
	Forest	Station 2 – Soil- <u>Emily Moghaddas</u> , Plumas NF
	Forest	Station 3 – Watershed- <u>Mike De Lasaux</u> , UC Cooperative Extension
4:30-5:00		BREAK
5:00-6:00		Forest Resources Education Activities- <u>Tom Catchpole</u> , retired, U. S. Forest Service
6:00-7:00	DH	DINNER
7:30-9:00	SH	PLT Forest Ecology & Forest Issues Secondary Modules; Burning Issues DVD (5 th grade +) - <u>Staff</u>
9:00	CF	Campfire

Tuesday, June 20

7:00-8:00	DH	BREAKFAST
8:00-8:15	DH	“Community Meeting”
8:15-12:15	CF	Forest Resources Management Sessions and Curricular Connections
	SH	Station 1 - Wildlife Management- <u>Julie Kelly</u> , Sierra Pacific Industries
	Forest	Station 2 – Silviculture- <u>Patti Millet</u> , Plumas National Forest
	Forest	Station 3 – Tree Measurements- <u>John Nicoles</u> , retired, East Bay Regional Parks
12:15-1:15	CF	SACK LUNCH (optional questions & reflection)
1:15-2:15	CF	Educational Resources <u>Nancy Jones</u> , <u>Dennis Mitchell</u> , <u>Brian Brown</u>

Tuesday, June 20, Continued

2:15-4:30 Curriculum Unit Breakouts- Nancy Jones, Dennis Mitchell, Brian Brown
4:30-5:00 **BREAK**
5:00-6:00 **CF** Forest Resources Activities (K-6 grades)- Tom Catchpole, retired U. S. Forest Service
6:00-7:00 **DH** **DINNER**
7:00-8:15 **DH** Forestry & Environmental Issues, Craig Thomas, Sierra Nevada Forest Protection Campaign
8:30- 10:00 **CF** Campfire

Wednesday, June 21

7:00-8:00 **DH** **BREAKFAST**
8:00-8:15 **DH** “Community Meeting”
8:15-1:30 **CF** Field Tour: Forest Vegetation Management (biomass & traditional forest harvesting)
1:30-2:30 **SACK LUNCH**
2:30-5:00 **CF** Curriculum development and curriculum project information, Staff
5:00-6:00 **BREAK (Group Photograph)**
6:00-7:00 **DINNER**
7:00-10:00 **DH** California Spotted Owl calling (optional)

Thursday, June 22

7:00-8:00 **DH** **BREAKFAST**
8:00-8:15 **DH** “Community Meeting”
8:15-11:00 **CF** Field Tour: Lumber Manufacturing
11:30-12:30 **SACK LUNCH**
12:30-1:30 Industrial Forest Management, Tim Feller, Sierra Pacific Industries
2:00-?? YOUR TIME - Explore various points of interest in Plumas County
6:00-7:00 **DINNER (for those still in camp)**

Friday, June 23

7:00-8:00 **DH** **BREAKFAST**
8:00-8:15 **DH** “Community Meeting”
8:15-10:30 **DH** Panel: Community Forestry –
10:30-10:45 **BREAK**
10:45- 12:00 **CF** Project Wild & Curriculum Project development, Staff
12:00-1:00 **SACK LUNCH**
1:00-2:00 **CF** Curriculum Project development, Staff
6:00 Rough draft of curriculum project due
6:00-7:00 **DINNER**
7:00-8:00 **CF** Group Activity

Saturday, June 24

7:00-8:00 **DH** **BREAKFAST**
8:00-10:00 **DH** Forest Consequences, Post-Assessment & Evaluation, Mike De Lasaux & Nancy Jones
10:00-11:00 Unit Sharing and Wrap-up
11:00 Pack-up and check out
12:00 **FIT ENDS**

Project Learning Tree® is the environmental education program of the American Forest Foundation and sponsored in [state name] by [PLT local sponsor].



PLT Embedded in Methods Class
Selected Excerpts From:

Course Syllabus ED 499 Elementary Education
Methods of Science, Social Studies, and Environmental Education
Fall Semester 2003-2004, Tuesday 2:00-4:50, 4 Credits

Instructor: Al Stenstrup

Office Hours: 1-2 PM and 5-6 PM Tuesday's or by appointment (Science Building 108)

Phone: xxx-xxx-xxxx (Day) xxx-xxx-xxxx (Cell) xxx-xxx-xxxx (Home)

E-mail: astenstrup@yahoo.com or allen.stenstrup@dnr.state.wi.us

2) Standards Addressed

The NCATE Standards, the Wisconsin Teaching Standards, and Wisconsin's Model Academic Standards (WMAS) in the areas of Social Studies, Science, and Environmental Education will be addressed throughout the semester. Many will be discussed each week as the various topics and objectives are presented, explored and practiced.

3) Instructional Strategies Utilized in the Course

Lecture, large and small group discussions, technology/web sites, children's literature, inquiry-based activities, presentations, creating and implementing lesson plans, critiquing lesson plans, analyzing textbooks and materials, creating unit plans, cooperative learning, outdoor investigations, simulations, science kit usage, concept mapping, video/DVD/CD, geography mapping, and reflection journals.

6) Course Description

To explore the interrelationships of social studies, science, and environmental education in elementary and middle schools, focusing on curriculum and methodology, which promote scientific literacy, a social, cultural and historical perspective, global and environmental sustainability and intergenerational responsibility.

7) Course Objectives

It is the goal of this course, assuming active participation and interaction by the members of the class, that students will achieve the following:

1. Develop an understanding of the relationship between social studies, science, and ecological principles within the entire scope of classroom life.
2. Develop the ability to examine and critique various teaching strategies and instructional resources used in teaching elementary and middle school social studies, science, and environmental education.
3. Develop the capacity to engage in reflective, critical analysis of the scientific and social world; explore ways to develop these capacities in children.
4. Develop an awareness and knowledge of social action skills as an important aspect of personal and professional development toward citizen action skills.
5. Identify the use of technology in promoting science, social studies, and environmental education.
6. Observe and participate in classroom experiences associated with science, social studies and environmental education including participation in a Project Learning Tree workshop.

8) Required Readings and Materials

Wisconsin's Model Academic Standards: Social Studies & Science & EE

These will be handed out in class. The Standards can also be downloaded from the Department of Public Instruction Internet site at <http://www.dpi.state.wi.us> or from the CD with all WDPI Standards on reserve in the library.

Project Learning Tree: Environmental Education Activity Guide. American Forest Foundation: 2002. This supplementary set of teaching activities will be available during the semester. The cost of the workshop is \$15.

10) Requirements

E) Outdoor Experience and Analysis. Due December 2, 2003

Using the calendar provided by the Aldo Leopold Nature Center, select an opportunity to observe and participate with a group of students that are on a field trip to the center. The observation should be at least 1-2 hour in length. The field experience will be lead by a naturalist from the center or a teacher. The programs are mostly outdoors, so be dressed for outdoor activities. Write a 1-2 page analysis of the experience. What was the students reaction? What seemed to work? Why? What did not work? Was discipline a problem? Were there any special needs students? Would you take your class on this type of experience?

Extra Credit Opportunities:

2. Individually or a team lead an activity out of Project Learning Tree, Project WILD, or Project WET that has a science, social studies of environmental connection. Max. 5 Points

11) Topical Outline and Class Schedule

Week 1 – September 2

Introduction, Review of Syllabus, Practicum Description, Student Assessment & Resource Analysis Assignment, The Standards – Science, Social Studies and Environmental Education, Outdoor Activity – UV Radiation, Children’s Literature Assignment.

Week 2 – September 9

Foundations to Social Studies – Wisconsin Model Academic Standards. Global Studies. Explain Remaining Assignments, Global Issues Assignment, Material World, Population, Mapping Simulation, Geography, K-W-L Model.

Week 3 – September 16

Introduction to Project Learning Tree. Activity 63: Tree Factory. Correlations of PLT to Science and Social Studies Standards. Constructivist Model. Using School Sites and School Forests. Wisconsin Forests. Sample Indoor and Outdoor Activities. Music and Movement. Early Childhood Activity: To Be a Tree.

Week 4 – September 23

Forms of Energy, Transportation, Energy & Society Kit, Energy Chains Activity, Economic Education, Invited Guest from the Education Communications Board: Wendy Wegenke. Learning Styles KAV

Week 5 – September 30

Foundations to Science – Wisconsin Model Academic Standards, Inquiry-based learning, Lesson Plan Development, Use of Posters and Data Activity, Science Process Skills, Nature of Science & Science Connections. Class Critique.

Week 6 – October 7

4th Grade Wisconsin History, Interdisciplinary or Integrated Instruction. Concept mapping. Activity 76: Tree Cookies. State Historical Society Invited Guest: Author Bobbi Malone.

Week 7 - Fall Break – No Class**Week 8 – October 21**

Check on Unit Plan Project, Progress in Practicum, Mid-Term Exam. Foundations to EE – Wisconsin Model Academic Standards. Teaching about the Environment – Awareness to Action. Community Issue Investigation Process, Government Processes

Week 9 – October 28

Assessment and Evaluation. Invited Guest: Lisa Carey, Edgewood Faculty Social Studies Methods, Democracy, Earth & Space Science. Air Education.

Week 10 – November 4

Monitoring, Community Investigations, Science Applications. Technology, Ideas Website, NatureNet Website. Invited Guest: Jone Moody, 4th grade Teacher Madison Public Schools, Social Studies Expert

Week 11 – November 11

Life and Environmental Science. Water Investigations, Wisconsin Waters. Activity 44: Water Wonders and Water Cycle Song and Dance. Your Watershed – Madison Lakes. Global Waters. Food Webs.

Week 12 – November 18

Science Safety and Chemicals. Science in Social & Personal Perspectives, Invited Guest: Lisa Wachtel, Madison Public Schools – Science and Environmental Education Coordinator:

Week 13 – November 25

Space Science. Science Kits – Foss and SEPUP. Invited Guest: Amy Lauer: Edgewood K-16 Science Coordinator.

Week 14 – December 2

Begin Presentations of Unit Plan Presentations. Hand in Outdoor Observation.

Week 15 – December 9

Course Evaluation, Professional Opportunities. Complete Presentations of Unit Plan Presentations



Appendix D: Additional Workshop Strategies

- PLT Preservice Workshop Options
- Sample Icebreakers
- Sample “Hike” through the PLT Guide (PreK-8)
- Sample “Hike” through the PLT Guide (PreK-8) – Quiz Version (with answers)
- Hike the PLT Website
- PLT on the Spot
- PLT Lesson Planning Worksheet (also in the index of PreK–8 guide)
- Seventeen Tips for a Great Workshop
- Questioning Strategies
- Define Your Terms!
- Working with Adults as Learners
- Facilitator and Workshop Requirements Checklist
- Evaluating Yourself as a Facilitator



Implementing Project Learning Tree In Your Preservice Classes



Workshop Options

Option 1: Professor is a PLT Facilitator

The elements of a workshop are integrated into any appropriate class, such as teaching methods or graduate level classes for in-service teachers. You may still want to invite guest facilitators when doing content-heavy activities.

OR

The entire 6-hour workshop is delivered as a unit during a class. The time that students spend outside of class preparing and leading activities counts.

OR

Workshop is offered outside of class time as a voluntary option for students. Incentives could be offered to attend. Other education majors from other classes could be invited to participate.

OR

Create a new class! Offer a class using PLT/WILD/WET and offer university credit.

OR

Facilitate off-campus workshops at local schools, museums, etc. Invite local teachers to participate in these workshops.

Option 2: Invite Guest PLT Facilitator Into Your Class

You could invite a PLT facilitator for the first session and then integrate PLT into your remaining class sessions.

OR

The entire 6-hour workshop is delivered during class time as a unit. The time that students spend outside of class preparing and leading activities counts.

Option 3: PLT Workshop in the Community- Facilitator is from the Area

Students are given the schedule of PLT workshops offered outside of class time as a voluntary option. These are often offered at local Nature Centers and give your students a chance to see other educational facilities. Check with your state coordinator for scheduled workshops.

PROJECT LEARNING TREE'S BASIC EXPECTATIONS:



Students are very familiar with and comfortable using the Activity Guide.



Students have a solid understanding of environmental education: its definition, teaching unbiased lessons, effective classroom use of EE, and creative use of outdoor areas such as school sites and the local community



Students create an Action Plan to implement PLT activities in their education setting.

Lisa Deaton (VA PLT) and Al Stenstrup (PLT) - PLT Preservice Educators Workshop Options

Sample Icebreakers

Icebreakers are an important part of your workshop. They set the tone by getting everyone up and participating, and are also a great opportunity to model an additional PLT activity. Below are several PLT activities that can be adapted for icebreakers. Be sure to include an introduction and debrief these activities even when you use them as icebreakers.

For PreK-8 Workshops:

Forest Products in a Bag (a variation of Get in Touch with Trees, Activity 2). Put matching pairs of forest products in separate, small lunch bags and give each person a bag. (For product ideas, see We All Need Trees, Activity 13). Without looking in the bags, participants mingle and try to find a match to their item by feeling what's in everyone else's bag. After they find their match, they will introduce each other to the group.

Tree Treasures (Activity 12). Give everyone a different mystery forest product by taping it or a picture of it on their backs. Pair up the participants and have them work together to guess their product by asking only "yes/no" questions. After all pairs have figured out their products, they will introduce each other.

We All Need Trees (Activity 13, Variation of Part B). Explain what a tree cookie is. Hand out paper plates and instruct each person to create a "personal tree cookie" that would describe their age or the number of years they have been at their current position (you can vary the instructions). They can use different colors, designs, or put stickers on the rings to identify special events in that time frame. Everyone introduces themselves and explains their tree cookie.

Poet-Tree (Activity 5). Have participants look (or go) outside for a few minutes and then write a short poem about what they saw. Go around and have each person introduce themselves and share their poem.

I'd Like to Visit a Place Where... (Activity 54). Have participants introduce themselves and tell a brief story about a place they would like to revisit in their community.

The Closer You Look (Activity 61). Have participants draw their favorite tree, or a tree they can identify with. Ask everyone to introduce themselves and share their drawing.

Our Changing World (Activity 86). Sit in a circle and give one person a ball of string or yarn. This person will say their name and then name something in the environment. Then they roll the ball (but they hold onto the end) to someone else and that person says their name and something else that connects to the first word. Continue passing the ball until everyone is connected.

For Secondary Workshops:

Words to Live By (Activity 7 in *Focus on Forests*). Cut out author descriptions on page 44 and the quotes without their author (pages 45-46). Hand out either an author or a quote to each participant. Have them mingle to try to find their match (author + quote). After everyone has a match, go around to each pair, do introductions, and reveal whether they matched up correctly.

Risks We Face (from *Focus on Risk*). Create a list of risks that people take and hand out a copy to each person. Instruct them to walk around and try to find members of the group who have taken one of the risks on the list and ask them to sign their name beside the risk. See if they can find a person for each risk listed. After, have a few people read their lists and introduce the people who have signed their sheet.

Personal Places (Activity 1 in *Places We Live*). Have participants think back to where they lived when they were 10 years old and then draw/color a map of everything they can remember. Participants share their maps with the rest of the group and how the place has changed in good and bad ways since they were 10.

Global Invaders (extension of Activity 1 in Biodiversity Online Module). Give half of the participants an invasive species (picture or word) to the U.S. Give the other half the invasive species' countries of origin. Have participants try to find their match and discuss how the invasive species may have come to the U.S. Go around to each pair, do introductions, and reveal if they matched up correctly. (See page 3 of "Global Invaders" for examples of invasive species to the U.S.)

For Either Type of Workshop:

Glossary Charades. Choose a variety of glossary terms and their definitions, and write them on separate 3" x 5" cards (the number of terms should be equal to half the number of participants). Pair up the participants and give each pair a term to act out for the rest of the group to guess. Before each pair performs their charade, have them introduce themselves.

PLT Bingo. This is an old favorite and a reliable technique for introducing the participants to themes and concepts you will cover in your workshop. Create a grid (4 squares by 5 square works nicely) and add in statements such as "has visited an old growth forest" or "can name an invasive species." Participants move around the room looking for someone who fits each statement, and when they do, has them initial it. When one participant has a "bingo" (four or five in a row) you can stop. Take time to review the information – let the participants share their knowledge as they introduce themselves. Contact the State Coordinator for sample bingo cards to use.



A Hike thru the PLT Guide (PreK-8)

1. Find the **Introduction** pages at the beginning of the guide. How does PLT support quality environmental education through its mission and goals?
2. Find the **Table of Contents** and read some of the names of the activities. Page numbers are listed to the right, activity numbers are on the left. Pick an activity that sounds interesting and try to guess what the activity might be. Look it up by its activity number and read the activity. How close were you?
3. Find the **Topic Index** (Index 5) in the appendices. Find an activity that deals with or utilizes a) tree parts, b) consumerism, c) poetry, and d) water. Choose any topic in the index that interests you. What activities are listed under that topic? Choose one activity to refer to for the next three questions.
4. Turn to **Activity References and Resources** (Appendix 4). Look up some of the additional resources that go with the activity you chose in #3. Who would you contact to get additional information or resources to enhance your activity?
5. What are some of the themes or major ecological thoughts that go along with the activity you chose in #3? Look at the activity and find the sidebar box that lists some specific concepts for that activity. Turn to the **Conceptual Framework** (Appendix 2) and look up some of the concepts to see if you identified the same themes.
6. Turn to **Teaching Methods and Strategies** (Introduction). What teaching strategies are used in the activity you chose in question #3?
7. Does your *broadleaf* have a *samara*? Is your *grassland* just a part of your *sere*? Look in the **Glossary** (Appendix 1) to find the answers.
8. Find the **PLT Activity Design** and **Activity Components** (Introduction) in the guide. Where will you find recommendations to extend the learning experience of the activity?
9. PLT recognizes the importance of utilizing technology to enhance student learning. Turn to **Technology Connections** (Appendix 8) and list one suggestion to use digital resources in a responsible manner.
10. Turn to **Two Hats** (Appendix 13). What is your role as an environmental educator?



A Hike thru the PLT Guide (PreK-8) - Group Quiz Version

Facilitator asks the group questions. Participants look through the books to find the answer. The first participant to find the answer should raise their hand, tell the page #/section where found and give the correct answer. The participant with the correct answer then gets a prize (candy or small related-trinket)

- 1. How does PLT support quality environmental education through its mission and goals?**

Introduction, page 3 “learn how to think not what to think”

- 2. What is Activity #26 and what is it about?**

Page 113 Dynamic Duos - symbiotic relationships

- 3. Find the activities that deal with or utilize consumerism.**

Topic Index, page 464 A Few of My Favorite Thing, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Resources Go Round, A Peek At Packaging

- 4. What additional resources are listed for activity #92 A Look At Lifestyles?**

Activity References and Resources Appendix, page 440 3 books, 6 films, 1 website

- 5. What is the main concept listed for Planning the Ideal Community?**

Activity #55, page 2393.8 Most cultures have beliefs, values, and traditions....

- 6. What teaching strategies does PLT use?**

Introduction, page 6 key concept, demonstration/reading, discussion, brainstorming, planning, building charts/lists, inquiry-based activities, student directed projects, journaling

- 7. Does your broadleaf have a samara? Is your grassland just a part of your sere?**

Glossary, pages 421 and 425 yes (maple)

Glossary, pages 423 and 425 yes

- 8. Where will you find recommendations to extend the learning experience of an activity?**

Introduction/Activity Components, page 10 Enrichment section

- 9. PLT recognizes the importance of utilizing technology to enhance student learning. Name one suggestion to use digital resources in a responsible manner.**

Technology Connections, page 443 advise your students to be aware of where the information they are accessing is coming from

- 10. Find the section called Two Hats. How does PLT define your role as an environmental educator?**

Appendix 13, page 448 teaching students how to think not what to think about complex environmental issues

“Hike” the PLT Website

Use the following checklist to familiarize yourself with PLT’s website.

- Go to **www.plt.org**. Notice the side bar, which lists the main topics.
- **About PLT**: Put your cursor over this topic to see all the subtopics. Review **PLT Mission and Goals**.
- **Join PLT**: Choose this topic to see all 3 subtopics. Go to **Contact Your State Coordinator** and find the Pennsylvania State Coordinator’s contact information.
- Visit the **Calendar of Events** and see what workshops are listed for Pennsylvania.
- **Curriculum**: Put your cursor over this topic to show subtopics.
- **Standards Correlations**: View correlations to national and Pennsylvania content standards.
- **PreK-8 Guide**: Go to this page to learn about the special features of the guide.
- Under **PreK-8 Guide**, scroll down to **Resources for the PreK-8 Guide**. Click on **Search by activity**, and look for:

Activity 11 - Can It Be Real? Note the following resources for this activity:

- *Student Pages* – Educators can download and print student pages rather than making copies from the guide.
- *Technology Connections* – In Part B of this activity, students investigate an animal or plant and create a visual presentation. Click on the **slide show example**, which educators can use to help their students get started.
- *Urban and Community Forestry Website Connections* – This link will take you to another page. There, under **Select Guide**, choose **PreK-8**, hit go, and then click on **Activity 11: Can it Be Real?** to find a connection to PBS’s “Creature or Not!” Educators can also go to Appendix 4 in the *PreK-8 Guide* to see urban and community forestry connections for any activity.
- *Earth & Sky Radio Show Correlation*. Select a radio show correlation (like **Social Chameleon**). You can also visit the Earth & Sky webpage from the PLT website (under **Special Initiatives**) for a listing of PLT activities correlated to the radio shows.

Activity 2 – Get in Touch with Trees. Note the following resource for this activity:

- **Assessment Opportunities** – Click on **Sample Assessment Rubric**. A few of the activities have sample assessments on the PLT website. In most cases, the new *PreK-8 Guide* will refer you to the website if a sample is available.
- Under the **Energy and Society** topic, scroll down to **Enhancing the Energy & Society Kit** to view support resources, especially the **Annotated Website Bibliography**. Energy & Society activities are also correlated to Earth & Sky radio shows and can be viewed on the Earth & Sky page of the PLT website.
- Under the **PLT Secondary Modules** topic, learn more about each of the PLT modules. Choose one of the modules and find out what additional resources are recommended for this module.
- Under **GreenWorks!**, learn about PLT’s service-learning/community action grant program. Locate the sample **environmental action projects** and the **guidebook**, and learn how to apply for a **grant**.
- View the latest edition of the **Branch Newsletter**. Notice the five main features of the newsletter, EE News, PLT Updates, Educator Tips, EE Resources, and Featured Articles. If you like, you can sign up to receive an e-mail notice when each new issue is available on the PLT website.
- **Shop PLT** – the PLT Online Store. Type in “PLTdiscount” when you check out to receive a 10% discount on your order.

PLT on the Spot

This activity runs participants through several activities in a very short time. The purpose of this activity is to briefly introduce several PLT activities you would normally not have the time to do.

1. Set up 5-10 activity stations around the room or outdoors, each with a simple, touchable object (pencil, tree cookie, leaf, cone, soil sample, etc).
2. Create signs for each station listing 3 PLT activities (see sample). At least one of the activities should be easily related to the object.
3. Divide teachers into groups of three. Make sure each group has at least one PLT PreK-8 Activity Guide. The set-up question is:
*One of your students brings in a ____ and you realize you have an opportunity for a wonderful Teachable Moment! Can you find a PLT activity you can use **RIGHT NOW** to teach a great lesson about or using this object?*
4. Each group starts at a station and each teacher in the group looks up one of the activities on the sign.
5. The group discusses which of the three activities on the sign might be the “best fit” to teach a lesson—on the spot—using the object.
6. Small group share: What possible activities have you found? What do your students need?
7. Connect back to standards that might be met by the activity at the grade level they teach.

<u>Activities</u>
49
64
78
Object: Leaf in Fall Color

PLT Lesson Planning Worksheet

(See also the Index in the PreK–8 Guide)

Standards	Themes or Units	PLT Activities	Grade(s)	Materials	Adaptations, enrichments, field trips, local resources

SEVENTEEN TIPS FOR A GREAT WORKSHOP

- 1. CIRCLES, NOT SQUARES** - Whenever possible, arrange chairs in a circle or semi-circle. This arrangement will allow all participants to see each other and will increase their participation.
- 2. MURPHY'S LAW** - Be prepared for the unexpected. Stay flexible enough that you can change an outdoor activity to one done inside.
- 3. NUMBERS** - In general, 10 participants is a minimum number for a successful workshop. Because PLT activities are done in groups, it is difficult to do activities successfully with fewer people. A good rule of thumb is to use one facilitator for every ten attendees.
- 4. PACK YOUR OWN BAGS** - Be sure to pack materials and supplies yourself so you will know what you have. Use a checklist! At your workshop, arrange materials so that they are right at your fingertips and you don't waste time or appear unprepared by searching through boxes.
- 5. PLT PARTNERS** – PLT best practice is to have two people conduct a workshop, one educator and one resource person. Participants will benefit from varying styles, voices, and personalities. Also, if one person has an emergency, the other can cover the workshop so it will not have to be canceled.
- 6. THE SPICE OF LIFE** - Arrange your workshop agenda so the active parts are interspersed with the sitting and listening parts. Select activities that reflect a variety of learning styles. Alternating facilitators provides even more variety.
- 7. NAMETAGS** - Provide nametags even if everyone knows each other. Have them prepared before the session with large enough letters for all to read.
- 8. QUESTIONS?** - Create an open atmosphere by encouraging participants to ask questions. If you don't have an answer, be sure to say "I don't know, but will look into that for you." Post a large sheet of paper to collect "I need" ideas or questions.
- 9. WAIT-TIME** - When using questioning strategies to engage participants, allow them enough time to think through the question before providing an answer or continuing the discussion. This is an important teaching strategy for classroom learning, too.
- 10. WRAP IT UP** - After an activity, be sure to include a "debrief". Include questions about the subjects covered, the vocabulary, and materials needed. Ask for volunteers to tell how they might use it in the context of what they teach. Ask for ideas for extensions or variations. The purpose of the wrap-up is to allow participants to reflect on the lesson and how they may use it or change it to meet their needs.
- 11. JARGON** - Use common, everyday language that everyone will understand. Be sure to explain any jargon or acronyms you do use.

12. TEACH, DON'T PREACH - Treat your participants as professionals. Let them make their own judgments about the PLT activities. Urge them to think about how they might use PLT in the context of what they teach or to help to meet their students' needs.

13. SOAPBOXES - When you conduct a PLT workshop be careful to avoid sharing too much of your personal agenda or point of view. Be sure to introduce yourself and your professional affiliation. The fact that you are sponsored by your employer speaks for itself.

14. THE EYES HAVE IT - Make eye contact when facilitating your session. Watch for body language: yawning may mean participants are bored, sleepy, or too warm, having arms crossed may mean they are cold or antagonistic.

15. FAIRNESS - Treat everyone equally. Don't show favorites. Watch out for unprofessional conversations or jokes.

16. EVALUATIONS - Be sure to let the participants know how important the workshop evaluation is to both the state and national program. Everyone should fill out an evaluation. They can omit their name if they wish.

17. HAVE FUN - Be comfortable with your presentation style and what you have to share. And have fun

Questioning Strategies

Good questions help workshop participants reflect on what they have experienced in the workshop activities. To ask effective questions, keep these points in mind:

- Ask probing questions that seek clarification and make participants rethink answers or think in a new way. (What did you notice about ____? What would happen if ____?)
- Keep participants attentive by changing the pattern of questions (Why do you think...? What would you do...?)
- Seek clarification or verification of erroneous or incorrect answers. (In what ways are ____ and ____ alike/different?)
- Use the “thinking skills” to phrase questions: observing, recalling, comparing, contrasting, sorting, classifying, sequencing, inferring, predicting, hypothesizing and generalizing. (Predict what would happen if ____?)
- Ask questions that stimulate discussion and have more than one correct answer. (How can we apply this information or experience to some other setting?)
- Allow for ample “wait time” – or the time it takes just after a question is posed and the response is provided. Be patient – count to 20 before providing additional information (or being tempted to answer the question yourself).

Avoid:

- Asking questions, one right after the other, too quickly.
- Asking questions that only require one word or very simple responses or tend to only regurgitate information.
- Praising or correcting answers superficially.
- Repeating the response. Let participants speak for themselves. Ask them to repeat the answer if you think others did not hear it.

Q: What Would You Do If...

You have finished an activity and want to initiate a discussion among the participants?

(A: Ask questions such as: “What surprised you most about this activity?” “What did you learn that you didn’t know before?”)

You have asked a question and no one responds?

(A: Smile, wait, then repeat the question. It may take more “wait time” to develop a response using higher order thinking skills.)

A participant gives you an incorrect answer to a question?

(A: Ask questions such as: “What makes you say that?” “How do you know that?” or “What other explanations are possible?” Ask these questions for correct answers as well.)

A participant takes over the flow of the discussion when answering a question?

(A: Ask: “Does anyone else have any observations/data/inferences to share with the group?”)

Define Your Terms!

With numerous instructional methods to draw on, teachers must sometimes become confused about the vast pedagogical lexicon we use. When highlighting how PLT utilizes or can be used to develop a certain teaching style, be sure to clarify these terms:

Activity – a learning endeavor designed for participation in order to create a common experience to be studied or discussed by the participants.

Bilingual education – educational strategies used to help learners maintain and advance their skills and ability to use more than one language; teaching strategies used are similar to those used in environmental education.

Case study – a group discussion or problem solving activity that uses materials from an actual situation.

Community education – a curricular strategy used to help students focus on issues relevant to their community; see “place-based”.

Conservation education – a curricular strategy used to help students increase their awareness and understanding of interrelationships in natural systems and between people and the land. This understanding will help enable them recognize the increasing complexity of natural resource management, to make informed choices, and to foster their responsibility to conserve and wisely use natural and cultural resources.

Constructivism – educational philosophy that assumes that students have some degree of knowledge and experience they bring to a new lesson. The teacher guides or facilitates the learning experience so that students construct their own meaning and understanding.

Cooperative learning – combining students in small groups or pairs based on interests, language ability, varied learning styles, or other combination to complete a learning task.

Critical pedagogy – a theory of education that endeavors to engage learners in recognizing the interactions and conflict of the social, political, and economic nature of education; teaches how to “read the world.”

English language learner (ELL) – refers to a person who has a first language other than English and is in the process of acquiring English.

Environmental education – focuses on environmental literacy and understanding how humans interact and are dependent on natural ecosystems; develops students’ critical-thinking skills to resolve environmental issues. The goals are to increase awareness, knowledge, skills, and taking action/participation regarding environmental issues.

Environmental literacy – a fundamental understanding of the systems of the world, both living and non-living, along with the analytical skills needed to weigh scientific evidence and make informed choices.

Environment-based education – focuses on educational results using the environment to engage students in their academic education with the goal of helping to achieve academic success, as well as an understanding of and appreciation for the environment.

Experiential learning – an approach to learning in which participants learn through a several step process (engage, explore, explain, elaborate, and evaluate) and involves a high level of reflection.

Facilitator – a person who guides participants learning but does not use direct teaching strategies such as lecture.

Game – an activity that typically is done for fun, competition, or chance.

Hands-on – providing students with tangible objects from the real world that they use to learn from; participation in learning through use or creation of material that engages multiple learning modalities.

Inquiry-based – a process where teachers organize classroom activities that help students develop questions about a particular topic or topics and then conduct investigations to answer their questions.

Learning styles – Particular ways a learner perceives, interacts with, and responds to a learning environment. (See Section IV of this Handbook for more information).

Lecture – a process where the teacher transmits knowledge to students by giving them information on a topic.

Model – an explanation or demonstration of “ideal” behavior.

Multicultural education – an educational focus that places an emphasis on examining and understanding the relationships among humans and acknowledges that students learn within their own cultural context and are influenced by attitudes, behaviors, and norms for their culture.

Outdoor education – learning that takes place out-of-doors and reinforces that all living things are to be respected.

Place-based – a model of teaching and learning that involves students in gaining a strong “sense of place” and that engages students in direct learning about the social and ecological places we live; a version of inquiry-based learning.

Problem-based – a model for teaching that engages students in the investigation of a problem (see inquiry-based).

Project-based – a model for teaching and learning that involves students in problem-solving investigations and other tasks that allow them to work alone to construct their own knowledge and outcomes.

Role-playing – a setting for learning in which participants act out a situation through assigned parts.

Working with Adults as Learners

One of the goals of PLT workshops is to help educators learn new ways of approaching their teaching tasks. Adults as learners are different than children as learners. The following characteristics of adult learners may help you plan and present your workshops.

Orientation to Learning

- Adults will commit to learning something when they consider the goals and objectives of the workshop to be important to them — that is, job-related and perceived as being immediately useful.
- Adults want to initiate their own learning and be involved in selecting objectives, content, and assessment.

What you can do: State workshop goals early in the schedule and add participant goals not listed. Be prepared to help participants see the need for learning something new. Encourage and nurture the seeds of understanding and change. Assume that each person wants to understand or learn.

The Learner's Self-Concept

- Adult learning is ego-involved. Learning a new skill, technique, or concept may promote a positive or negative view of self. Adults may fear that others will judge them, which produces anxiety during new learning situations.
- Adults reject prescriptions by others for their learning, especially when what is prescribed is viewed as an attack on what they are presently doing.

What you can do: Provide an environment in which the participants feel safe to try something new or to consider new ideas. Never criticize participants, but be positive and affirm each person in some way.

The Role of the Learner's Experience

- Adults come to any learning experience with a wide range of previous experiences, knowledge, skills, self-direction, interests, and competencies. This means that the richest resource for learning is often the group of adult learners themselves.
- Adults will resist learning situations they believe are an attack on their competence, thus they may resist imposed workshop topics and activities.

What you can do: Accept and value participants as individuals with their own experiences, knowledge, and skills. Provide ways for participants to contribute to each other's learning through techniques like group discussion and problem-solving and peer-helping activities.

Motivation

- Motivation is produced by the adult learner: the facilitator's role is to encourage and create conditions that will nurture what already exists in the adult.
- Adult learning is enhanced by behaviors that demonstrate respect, trust, and concern for the learner.

What you can do: Show participants that you respect, trust, and are concerned for them. Do not blame participants who do not pay attention or are reluctant to participate, instead look for ways to adjust the workshop to increase interest.

Sources

Brookfield, Stephen D. *Understanding and Facilitating Adult Learning: A Comprehensive Analysis of Principles and Effective Practices*. Hoboken: Jossey-Bass, 2001.

Knowles, Malcolm. *The Adult Learner, 6th ed.: The Definitive Classic in Adult Education and Human Resource Development*. Oxford: Butterworth-Heinemann, 2005.



PLT Facilitator and Workshop Requirements Checklist:

Facilitator Requirements:

- ☐ Plan and conduct a minimum of **4 educator workshops every 4 years**. At least one of the workshops must be a PLT or PLT-related workshop.
- ☐ Make arrangements to co-facilitate the workshop and/or include a resource professional.
- ☐ Develop educator workshops that meet at least the minimum length and activity requirements.
- ☐ Include the critical workshop elements in the agenda (i.e., welcome, overview, hike thru guide, resources, how PLT meets standards, evaluation, certificates, etc...).
- ☐ Send in workshop proposal with attached agenda to PA PLT coordinator at least 4 weeks in advance.
- ☐ At workshop, have participants complete participant survey forms.
- ☐ After workshop, complete facilitator coversheet, attach completed participant survey forms and send to PA PLT coordinator within one month after workshop.
- ☐ Return extra books and materials.

Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood Workshop Requirements:

- ☐ Workshop is at least **4 hours long** (if combined with another workshop then at least 3 hours must be dedicated to PLT activities with total workshop time of 6 hours)
- ☐ Model at least **three** activities and select activities that involve a variety of learning strategies and demonstrate PLTs ability to help students move from awareness to action.

PreK-8 Environmental Education Activity Guide Workshop Requirements:

- ☐ Workshop is at least **6 hours long** (if combined with another workshop then at least 4 hours must be dedicated to PLT activities with total workshop time of 8 hours)
- ☐ Model at least **five** activities and select activities that involve a variety of learning strategies and demonstrate PLTs ability to help students move from awareness to action.

Secondary Modules Workshop Requirements:

- ☐ Workshop is at least **2 hours long** for a module with an additional hour added for each additional module included in the workshop.
- ☐ Model at least **two** activities for each secondary module. Select activities that involve a variety of learning strategies and demonstrate PLTs ability to help students move from awareness to action.



Evaluating Yourself as a Facilitator

Once the workshop is complete spend a few minutes evaluating how you did and make note of improvements and changes to be incorporated for the next workshop.

Planning and Promotion

Did you:

- ☐ Choose an appropriate workshop site
- ☐ Include a Co-Facilitator and/or Resource Specialist
- ☐ Consider the audience and plan accordingly
- ☐ Develop and distribute promotional materials at least 4 weeks prior to workshop date
- ☐ Order books and materials in a timely fashion

Workshop Design and Content

Did you:

- ☐ Follow the Awareness, Knowledge, Challenge and Consensus, Action (AKCA) model
- ☐ Meet the minimum workshop time requirements
- ☐ Model at least the minimum number of recommended activities and provide a debrief for each activity
- ☐ Include the critical workshop elements
- ☐ Provide additional resources
- ☐ Organize time, materials and people effectively
- ☐ Encourage feedback and questions from workshop participants
- ☐ Provide opportunities for follow up support

PLT Workshop Goals

Did you:

- ☐ Encourage educators to approach learning and teaching from an ecological and multi-disciplinary perspective
- ☐ Prepare educators to use PLT materials by modeling a sample of PLT activities and teaching strategies
- ☐ Show educators how they can incorporate PLT into their current and future lesson plans and curriculum
- ☐ Increase educators' confidence in teaching environmental education concepts
- ☐ Enrich educators' knowledge of content included in PLT lessons
- ☐ Create a setting in which educators can meet other professionals in their region interested in environmental education.
- ☐ Provide a fun and motivating forum that encourages educators to enjoy their own learning process

