Project Learning Tree Pre K-8 Environmental Education Activity Guide
Grade Level Expectations Correlations
(Arranged alphabetically)

Preface

Several years ago, the Missouri Department of Conservation helped to fund a project for Missouri teachers and environmental educators to match Project Learning Tree activities with the appropriate Show-Me Standards, which included both Content Standards and the 4 Process Standards (Goals 1-4). This work resulted in the Correlation Guide, which was a standard booklet passed along to each person taking a PLT workshop with the PLT guide in Missouri. This correlation guide is extensive and matches content standards for all subject areas and the process standards with the PLT activities in the previous edition of the Pre K-8 Activity Guide.

In the meantime, two things happened at the state level with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) that changed the effectiveness of the Correlation Guide—1) the creation of the Grade-Level Expectations (GLEs) for grades K-8 and Course Level Expectations (CLEs) for grades 9-11 and 2) our understanding of the Content and Process Standards. The Content Standards were not changed, but were broken down into recommendations for each grade level or course offering at the high school level. With the state's recommendation that the high school grades give an End of Course exam, rather than the former MAP test, the CLEs have been separated into specifics for each basic course—for example, biology, chemistry, physics, earth & space science in science. As teachers' familiarity with the content and process standards grew, we now know that activities must match exactly with standards or GLEs/CLEs, if they are to be considered an effective teaching tool. Project Learning Tree is an excellent activity guide to assist educators and matches very well with the original content standards, GLEs, CLEs and process standards.

While it is true that PLT activities are interdisciplinary, the GLEs/CLEs reflected in this document have direct ties to each activity (or notation will follow). For the activities that target elementary grades, GLEs and process standards will be given for science, with notes made if they also address other subject areas. For activities that target middle school, the GLEs for science and process standards will be given, with the understanding that these activities still are interdisciplinary in nature and other content GLEs will apply. At the high school level, each activity will be matched with the science CLEs, as well as the process standards.

In the summer of 2014, Missouri State University became the new state sponsor for PLT, and the activities in the current guide have now been matched to Missouri Science GLEs and CLEs. At the National PLT level, they are currently working on a new edition of the Pre K-8 Activity Guide. The new

PLT guide will be matched to national Common Core standards for English Language Arts and Math and the Next Generation Science Standards. This information will be available in conjunction with the new guide, coming in 2016.

An example of the GLE annotation method is explained here: **SC 5** ES.1.B.6.a

The SC represents *Science*, 5 is for *Strand 5*, ES is for *Earth Science*, 1 is for *Big Idea #1*, B is for the *Concept* , 6 is for *Grade 6* and a is for the specific item, or GLE under the concept. So, this annotation is a 6th grade item within the Earth Science strand. The specific GLE reads as follows:

Recognize the properties of water that make it an essential component of the Earth system (e.g., its ability to act as a solvent, its ability to remain a liquid at most Earth temperatures)

The GLEs and CLEs can be found by visiting the DESE website at www.dese.mo.gov and then *Science Grade Level or Course Level Expectations* in the Search box.

The Strands for Science and their abbreviations are as follows:

Strand 1—Matter and Energy (ME)
Strand 2—Force and Motion (FM)
Strand 3—Living Organisms (LO)
Strand 4—Ecology (EC)
Strand 5—Earth Systems (ES)
Strand 6—Universe (UN)
Strand 7—Inquiry (Scientific Process) (IN)
Strand 8—Science and Technology (ST)

This annotation method is consistent with the DESE method of annotating, with the exception of one addition here. SC for Science and the Strand number were added for more clarification at the beginning of each set. For those who don't always work with the GLEs and CLEs this might be helpful and will also serve as a reminder that each of these is for Science only.

If you would like a copy of the original Correlations Standards booklet or GLEs/CLEs match for the original Project Learning Tree guide, please contact one of the Missouri Project Learning Tree Co-Coordinators at Missouri State University.