

Connecting Kids to Nature

Nature is a great teacher and getting kids outside to learn and play is good for their brains and their bodies. Try this outdoor activity from Project Learning Tree® - it's safe, fun, and educational!

We All Need Trees

Children are often surprised to learn how many different products we get from trees. Use this activity to help children learn just how much we depend on trees in our daily lives.

Take a walk with children, and bring along a daypack filled with a few tree products, for example, fruit (e.g., apple, orange, banana), a pencil and a journal or a book, sunblock, and chewing gum. Pick up a downed tree branch and ask where it came from (a tree). Eat the fruit, and ask children where it came from (a store? a tree?). Ask children to think of other items that come from trees. Discuss some unusual tree products, using the samples from your daypack. Ask critical questions, including:

- Have you used anything that comes from trees today?
- How are tree products alike and how are they different?
- What do you like most about trees?

In addition to giving us wood, paper, food, and other products, trees are invaluable assets to our communities. Take a neighborhood walk, and look for newly planted trees and shrubs. How are they protected? Find a place without trees, and compare it with a place with many. Which place do you like best? Why?

For a children's story about the gifts of trees and our responsibility to care for them, check out *The Tree Farmer* by Chuck Leavell and Nicholas Cravotta, 2005, ISBN: 1893622169.

Complete this word search puzzle to discover ten tree products. Look below for the answers.

A	U	R	A	T	I	U	G	I
T	P	E	T	O	S	B	E	L
T	O	P	A	C	H	O	N	I
E	T	A	L	O	C	O	H	C
P	E	P	U	E	H	K	D	N
P	O	S	T	C	A	R	D	E
U	E	W	E	N	I	W	I	P
T	E	E	R	S	R	O	T	H
C	I	N	N	A	M	O	N	C

Answers: apple, book, cinnamon, chair, chocolate, guitar, house, newspaper, pencil, postcard

Make Learning Fun!

Encourage your child's school to incorporate learning outdoors.

For more activity ideas and materials:

- Attend a PLT workshop, www.plt.org/state-network/
- Visit shop.plt.org



Project Learning Tree®
(PLT) is an initiative
of the Sustainable
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