



## New Jersey Project Learning Tree Correlations

*Exploring  
Environmental Issues:  
Focus on Forests*

*Window to your world of instruction*

**PLT correlations to the  
New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards**



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*Exploring Environmental Issues: Focus On Forests*

**Project Learning Tree** is sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Parks and Forestry and is registered with the Department of Education as a professional development provider. Project Learning Tree (PLT) is internationally recognized as one of the premier environmental education programs.

A **Project Learning Tree Workshop for Secondary Educators** may include one of the five secondary environmental education modules: *Exploring Environmental Issues; Focus on Forests, The Places We Live, Municipal Solid Waste, Focus on Risk, and The Changing Forest: Forest Ecology*. All educators will receive a free education module at a PLT workshop.

The PLT secondary environmental education modules are built around five major themes: Diversity, Interrelationships, Systems, Structure and Scale, and Patterns of Change. PLT activities integrate the themes into all aspects of the standard secondary curriculum. 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.

*Exploring Environmental Issues: Focus on Forests* uses the forest as a “window” into the natural environment, while it helps students gain an awareness and knowledge of the world around them and of their place within it. Using forest-related issues as examples, the activities will help students better understand the complexity of environmental issues. Through this module, students will examine beliefs and values about issues related to forestry and will challenge their own thoughts about how forest resources should be used.

Since the development of the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards (CCCS), educators will need to correlate their curriculum with these standards.

This [New Jersey Secondary Educators Project Learning Tree Guide](#) lists the written state content standards for each PLT activity. Only the content standards that pertain to PLT activities are written. The activities are presented by their PLT Activity Guide name and number. The letter “E” is added to the activity number if the content standard is found only in the enrichment activity.

## Science Standards

### Standard 5.10

(ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES) All students will develop an understanding of the environment as a system of interdependent components affected by human activity and natural phenomena.

#### B. Human Interactions and Impact

##### PLT activity #

1. What's A Forest To You?
2. Old-Growth Forests
3. Tough Choices
5. Balancing America's Forests

## Mathematics Standards

### Standard 4.5

(MATHEMATICAL PROCESSES) All students will use mathematical processes of problem solving, communication, connections, reasoning, representations, and technology to solve problems and communicate mathematical ideas.

#### F. Technology

##### PLT activity #

4. Who Owns America's Forests?

## Social Studies Standards

### Standard 6.2

(CIVICS) All students will know, understand, and appreciate the values and principles of American democracy and the rights, responsibilities, and roles of a citizen in our democratic society.

#### A. Civic Life, Politics, and Government

##### PLT activity #

1. What's A Forest To You?
2. Old-Growth Forests
3. Tough Choices
4. Who Owns America's Forests?
5. Balancing America's Forests
6. Squirrels vs. Scopes
8. Take Action!

**Standard 6.4**

UNITED STATES AND NEW JERSEY HISTORY. All students will demonstrate knowledge of United States and New Jersey history in order to understand life and events in the past and how they relate to the present and the future.

L. Contemporary America (1960-present)

**PLT activity #**

1. What's A Forest To You?
2. Old Growth Forests
5. Balancing America's Forests

**Standard 6.5**

(ECONOMICS) All students will acquire an understanding of key economic principles in relation to individuals, institutions, and governments.

A. Economics and Society

**PLT activity #**

1. What's A Forest To You?
5. Balancing America's Forests

**Standard 6.6**

(GEOGRAPHY) All students will apply knowledge of spatial relationships and other geographic skills to understand human behavior in relation to the physical and cultural environment.

E. Environment and Society

**PLT activity #**

1. What's A Forest To You?
2. Old-Growth Forests
3. Tough Choices
- 4E. Who Owns America's Forests?
6. Squirrels vs. Scopes

## Language Arts Standards

**Standard 3.2** (WRITING) All students will write in clear, concise, organized language that varies in content and form for different audiences and purposes.

D. Writing Forms, Audiences, and Purposes

**PLT activity #**

1. What's A Forest To You?
2. Old-Growth Forests
4. Who Owns America's Forests?
7. Words To Live By
8. Take Action!

**Standard 3.3** (SPEAKING) All students will speak in clear, concise, organized language that varies in content and form for different audiences and purposes.

- A. Discussion
- B. Questioning (Inquiry) and Contributing

**PLT activity #**

3. Tough Choices
- 6E. Squirrels vs. Scopes

**Standard 3.4** (LISTENING) All students will listen actively to information from a variety of sources in a variety of situations.

- A. Active Listening
- B. Listening Comprehension

**PLT activity #**

3. Tough Choices
7. Words To Live By
8. Take Action!

**Standard 3.5** (VIEWING AND MEDIA LITERACY) All students will access, view, evaluate, and respond to print, nonprint, and electronic texts and resources.

A. Constructing Meaning from Media

**PLT activity #**

2. Old-Growth Forests
3. Tough Choices
4. Who Owns America's Forests?
6. Squirrels vs. Scopes
7. Words To Live By
8. Take Action!

**Visual and Performing Arts**

**Standard 1.2** (CREATION AND PERFORMANCE) All students will utilize those skills, media, methods, and technologies appropriate to each art form in the creation, performance, and presentation of dance, music, theater, and visual art.

D. Visual Arts

**PLT activity #**

4. Who Owns America's Forests?

**Career Education and Consumer, Family, and Life Skills**

**Standard 9.2** (Consumer, Family, and Life Skills) All students will demonstrate critical life skills in order to be functional members of society.

A. Critical Thinking

**PLT activity #**

2. Old-Growth Forests
3. Tough Choices
4. Who Owns America's Forests?
5. Balancing America's Forests
6. Squirrels vs. Scopes

C. Interpersonal Communication

**PLT activity #**

1. What's A Forest To You?
2. Old Growth Forests
3. Tough Choices
4. Who Owns America's Forests?
7. Words to Live By
8. Take Action!

D. Character Development and Ethics

**PLT activity #**

8. Take Action!

The New Jersey Educators Project Learning Guide represents the joint efforts of several groups who are dedicated to bringing environmental education to the classroom and promoting a lifetime of learning in the process. Thanks are extended to:

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Parks and Forestry  
NJ Forest Service  
NJ Forest Resource Education Center  
NJDEP, Office of Communications  
USDA Forest Service-Conservation Education  
NJ Natural Resources Education Cooperative  
NJ Department of Education



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