

Project Learning Tree

Secondary Environmental Education Program



**Correlation to the
Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills**

TEKS

PROJECT LEARNING TREE

SECONDARY ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

Introduction

Students in today's classrooms have a wide range of interests, aptitudes, and experiences. Educational research and the use of effective teaching practices have led teachers to change the design and delivery of curriculum so that it is closely related to the needs and interests of the students. Teachers today are familiar with innovations such as curriculum integration, connecting the school, home, and community activities to learning, and learning in cooperation with others using open-ended assignments and tasks. With the implementation of the Texas Essential Knowledge and skills (TEKS), teachers are increasing their focus on critical thinking skills, problem solving, and creative thinking. The five resources books provide teachers with lessons planned to incorporate these innovations in secondary education.

Project Learning Tree: Secondary Environmental Education Program

Since its introduction, Project Learning Tree: Secondary Environmental Education Program has been recognized as one of the premier environmental programs in the world. Through laboratory and field-based interdisciplinary lessons, PLT provides teachers and students with opportunities to investigate environmental issues and encourages them to take responsible action on behalf of the environment.

The Secondary Environmental Education Program consists of five books:

Focus on Forests
Forest Ecology
Focus on Risk
Municipal Solid Waste
Secondary Modules

The goals of Project Learning Tree are to:

1. Provide students with the awareness, appreciation, understanding, skills, and commitment to address environmental issues.
2. Enable students to apply scientific processes and critical thinking skills to resolve environmental problems.
3. 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.
4. Encourage creativity, originality, and flexibility to resolve environmental problems and issues.
5. Inspire and empower students become responsible, productive, and participatory members of society.

The mission of PLT is to use 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.

TEKS: Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills

The Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) was adopted by the State Board of Education in April and July 1997 and became effective in all content areas on September 1, 1998. The development of TEKS was a statewide project and included input from over 400 Texas classroom teachers, parents, business people, and citizens. The TEKS present clear detailed statements of knowledge and skills and of student expectations at every grade level and are academically rigorous. Unlike the essential elements, the TEKS do not outline how teachers are to teach and increases the decision making of teachers at the local level.

HOW TO USE THIS HANDBOOK

The purpose of this guide is to assist secondary teachers who are implementing the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) in their classrooms. The primary audiences are classroom teachers, curriculum specialists, curriculum committees, and college and university teacher education programs.

The handbook is divided into three sections:

- **Part I lists the secondary school course and includes the TEKS number, page number, TEKS statement, and PLT book, lesson number, and page number of the lesson.**

Use Part I if you have a particular TEKS objective in mind to teach and want to know what PLT book and lesson includes that objective. Part I is arranged in alphabetical order by course and includes the TEKS reference code for the course.

- **Part II lists the secondary school course by subject and includes the TEKS objectives number and page number. The subject and TEKS are correlated to the PLT book and lesson, and give the page number of the lesson.**

Use Part II if you are looking for TEKS in PLT that are correlated to the subject that is being taught. The subjects are listed in alphabetical order:

- Agriculture
- Art/Visual Arts I, II, III
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Civics/Government
- Communications
- Computer Science
- Debate I, II, III
- Environmental Systems/Ecology
- Environmental Systems/Environmental Science
- Earth Science (Geology, Meteorology, and Oceanography)
- Economics
- Geography (World Geography Studies)
- Health
- History/United States
- Human Anatomy & Physiology
- Industrial Arts/Technology Systems
- Journalism
- Language Arts/English I, II, III, IV
- Mathematics (Algebra I, II, Geometry, Mathematical Models)
- Performing Arts (Theatre Arts I, II, III)
- Physics
- Science/Integrated Physics and Chemistry
- Social Studies (United States History, World History, World Geography, and World Geography Studies)

Part III lists the five books and correlates the TEKS and lessons in each book.

Use Part III if you have one or all five of the books and would like to look at all the subjects and TEKS objectives that are included in the book. The correlation is listed first by subject and then by lesson. The page numbers are given so that you can read about the activities in your PLT book and determine the ones that are most suitable to the course you are teaching and the needs and interest of the students in the class.

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Secondary Environmental Education Program

Part I

Correlation of the TEKS to the PLT Lessons



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Part II

**Correlation of the Secondary Courses to the
TEKS and PLT Lessons**



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Part III

**Correlation of the PLT Guidebooks
To the TEKS and Lessons**



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