

A Correlation of the Lessons in Project Learning Tree to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, Grades PK - 8

How to Use This Guide

The correlation guide of Project Learning Tree (PLT) and the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) was developed to assist teachers in developing classroom instruction that focuses on the hands-on activities that provide students to apply the TEKS objectives that they have learned. Students will learn important concepts, TEKS objectives, and critical thinking and decision-making skills through the PLT lessons.

The correlation guide is divided into two sections:

Part I: Correlation by Grade and Subject

Part one lists the PLT lessons and the TEKS objectives by subject and grade level.

The correlation includes the subjects of language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies for grades prekindergarten through eight. The PLT lessons are listed by number and the TEKS are listed by TEKS number and page number. A description of the TEKS objective that most closely correlates to the PTL lessons are listed.

Part II: Correlation of Interdisciplinary Lessons in Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies

Part two lists the PLT Lesson Overview, Objectives, and Skills and correlates them to the language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. The four core subject areas are correlated with the activities of the PLT lesson. The lessons are listed by PLT lesson number and TEKS objectives.

Using part two correlation, teachers will be able to plan lessons that are interdisciplinary and apply learning across the curriculum in grades prekindergarten through eight.

Connecting Project Learning Tree's Environmental Education Prekindergarten through Grade Eight Activity Guide to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills

Introduction

Children in today's classrooms have a wide range of interests, aptitudes, and experiences. To meet the individual differences of children, both research and effective teaching practices in education had led to a change in the design and delivery of curriculum. Teachers today are familiar with innovations such as curriculum integration, relating home and school learning, and learning in cooperation with others in open-ended tasks. The *Project Learning Tree Activity Guide* provides teachers with lessons planned to incorporate these innovations in grades prekindergarten through eight.

Project Learning Tree

Since its introduction, Project Learning Tree (PLT) has been recognized as one of the premier environmental education programs in the world. Through hands-on interdisciplinary activities, PLT provides students with opportunities to investigate environmental issues and encourages them to make informed, responsible decisions.

The new *Project Learning Tree Activity Guide* 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.

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. The TEKS became effective in all content areas on September 1, 1998. The TEKS were developed with 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. The TEKS are specific and academically rigorous.

Unlike the essential elements, the TEKS do not outline how teachers are to teach. The approach used in the development provides increased flexibility at the local level.

“The teacher in the classroom can best determine what approach will work with a particular group of students,” Texas Commissioner of Education Dr. Mike Moses stated.