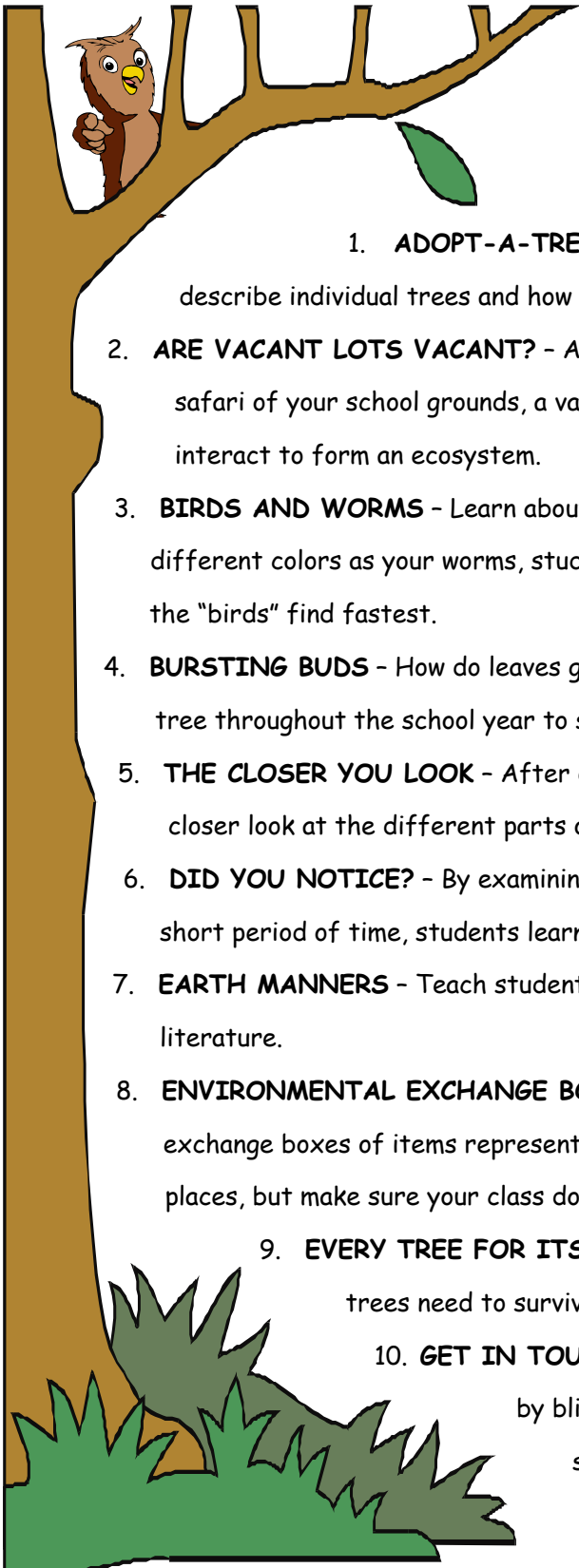


Project Learning Tree and Project WILD Activities for Kindergarten



PLT Activities for Kindergarten

1. **ADOPT-A-TREE** - Students visit a wooded area and use all of their senses to describe individual trees and how these individual trees combine to form a forest
2. **ARE VACANT LOTS VACANT?** - A great activity for urban schools. Take your students on a mini safari of your school grounds, a vacant lot, or a local park to see how plants, animals, and humans interact to form an ecosystem.
3. **BIRDS AND WORMS** - Learn about camouflage in this outdoor activity. Using small objects of different colors as your worms, students are the birds catching their lunch. See which color "worm" the "birds" find fastest.
4. **BURSTING BUDS** - How do leaves grow? This long-term activity has students observing an adopted tree throughout the school year to see how a tree changes with the seasons.
5. **THE CLOSER YOU LOOK** - After drawing pictures of trees, students observe real trees to take a closer look at the different parts of a tree.
6. **DID YOU NOTICE?** - By examining how their lives have changed over both a long period and a short period of time, students learn about the concept of change.
7. **EARTH MANNERS** - Teach students about responsibly exploring and enjoying nature with children's literature.
8. **ENVIRONMENTAL EXCHANGE BOX** - Form a partnership with a class from another region and exchange boxes of items representing each region's environment. A great way to learn about other places, but make sure your class doesn't send any regulated plant or animal material.
9. **EVERY TREE FOR ITSELF** - Students pretend to be trees to learn about what things trees need to survive. Also a great activity to help students learn to count.
10. **GET IN TOUCH WITH TREES!** - Students discover the importance of touch by blindly describing a tree using only what they can feel. See if students can later find their tree.

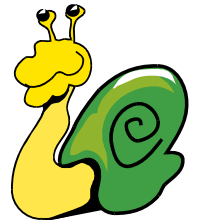
11. **HAVE SEEDS WILL TRAVEL** - Students learn about the different ways that seeds travel by collecting and analyzing seeds. For great ideas of how to collect seeds as a group, read the "Doing the Activity" section.
12. **HOW BIG IS YOUR TREE?** - This is a great activity to teach about measurements. Challenge your students to find the largest and smallest trees on the school grounds. Some methods of measurement include joining hands around the larger trees and counting hand spans around the smaller trees.
13. **HOW PLANTS GROW** - What happens if plants don't get enough water or light? Use this simple classroom experiment to teach your students what plants need to grow.
14. **I'D LIKE TO VISIT A PLACE WHERE...** - Visit a park or recreation area to discover the ABC's of a natural area. Students identify different park items that start with each letter of the alphabet. Later read the list back to the students as a poem.
15. **LIVING WITH FIRE** - This activity is a great simulation of a forest fire. Students are the fire, the trees, and the Smokey Bear Rangers.
16. **LOOKING AT LEAVES** - What's the difference between an oak leaf and a maple leaf? Students gather leaves to examine their characteristics. This activity contains excellent "Leaf Art" activities.
17. **PASS THE PLANTS, PLEASE** - Students discover how many things we eat that come from plants. Ask them their ideas and surprise them with a few foods they didn't think of.
18. **PEOPLE, PLACES, THINGS** - By taking a closer look at their community, students gain an appreciation for its structure and complexity. In this activity, students will develop a deeper understanding of the many people, places, and things they depend on everyday.
19. **THE PEPPERMINT BEETLE** - In this activity, students explore their sense of smell and discover why smell is important to animals, including themselves.
20. **PICTURE THIS!** - Scientists estimate that there are over 40 million species of plants and animals in the world. Where do they live? What do they look like? Students take a "picture safari" by cutting out plant and animal pictures from magazines and organizing these pictures into exhibits for a nature museum or zoo.
21. **POLLUTION SEARCH** - Here's a way for your students to take a closer look at pollution: what it is, what its sources are, and what are some things people can do to reduce it.
22. **SCHOOLYARD SAFARI** - In this activity, students go on a safari to explore a nearby habitat, the schoolyard, while looking for signs of animals living there.
23. **THE SHAPE OF THINGS** - Students focus their eyes on the many shapes that define both our natural and built environments by identifying items that have specific shapes.



24. **SIGNS OF FALL** - Students take a walk through a wooded area or on the school grounds to find signs that winter is approaching.
25. **SOUNDS AROUND** - Help your students "tune in" to the sounds in their environment. By sitting silently in a circle, students can try to identify what is making the sounds they hear.
26. **TALE OF THE SUN** - Every culture in the world has stories that are part of its history and tradition. These stories reveal the beliefs of the people who tell them. For example, many stories teach lessons in proper attitude and behavior. In this activity, your students can analyze a story told by the Muskogee (Creek) Indians of present-day Oklahoma. You can read and discuss stories told in other cultures from around the world.
27. **TO BE A TREE** - By making a tree costume, your students gain an awareness of a tree's structure and function.
28. **TREE FACTORY** - How do trees get what they need to survive? Students create their own "tree factory" by acting out how the tree obtains its requirements.
29. **TREE LIFECYCLE** - Students enact the lifecycle of a tree to discover that trees are living, growing things.
30. **TREES AS HABITATS** - From their leafy branches to their tangled roots, trees provide a habitat for a host of plants and animals. Through observation, students discover how plants and animals depend on trees in many ways.
31. **TROPICAL TREEHOUSE** - The state of the world's tropical rainforests is an important environmental issue. Help your students become aware of this ecosystem by creating a "symphony" of rainforest sounds in the classroom.

Project WILD Activities for Kindergarten


1. **CLASSROOM CARRYING CAPACITY** - Students sit unusually close to each other to understand the concept of "carrying capacity" and how limited space affects animals.
2. **COLOR CRAZY** - Students design their own colorful animals to learn how an animal's color and markings help them survive
3. **ETHI-THINKING** - Students draw pictures to describe activities that hurt wild plants and animals. They also describe alternative behaviors that are benign.
4. **EVERYBODY NEEDS A HOME** - Students draw pictures of their own home and compare their own needs with the needs of animals. Discuss why both people and animals need homes.
5. **FIRST IMPRESSIONS** - Students choose an animal that they think is scary. The teacher describes how each of these animals helps their environment. Great extensions in this activity.





6. **FOREST IN A JAR** - Students learn how environments change over time by making their own pond in a jar.
7. **LEARNING TO LOOK, LEARNING TO SEE** - Students discover ways to look at the environment by first making observations about a familiar surrounding (their classroom works well), and then making observations of an outside area.
8. **MAKE A COAT!** - By designing their own coat, students discover that throughout history clothing has been made out of different materials depending on the wearer's environment.
9. **PLAYING LIGHTLY ON THE EARTH** - Students learn how they impact the environment. First, explore the school grounds to find evidence of what games harm the environment, then invent games that have a benign effect on the environment.
10. **SATURDAY MORNING WILDLIFE WATCHING** - Are animals portrayed accurately on cartoons? Students discuss how animals are portrayed on TV and explore how this impacts the way they think about certain animals.
11. **SEEING IS BELIEVING** - Using binoculars, kaleidoscopes and fish-eye mirrors, students notice how different animals see in different ways. How does their type of vision help them?
12. **SURPRISE TERRARIUM** - Students learn about camouflage by observing a live animal in the classroom. Because the animal is returned to the wild, this activity provides a great opportunity to discuss the human



 responsibilities for proper animal care.

 13. **THE THICKET GAME** - Using a variation of "hide and seek" your students realize how prey hide from the predators. Very good outdoor activity.

 14. **TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT** - How close is too close to a wild animal? Great activity to teach about why keeping away from wild animals is good for both the students and the animal.

 15. **WHAT BEAR GOES WHERE?** - Students learn about adaptations to different habitats by drawing the habitats of polar bears, grizzly bears, and black bears.

16. **WHAT'S WILD** - Students determine the difference between wild and domestic animals by bringing in pictures of different animals and deciding which ones are wild and which ones are domestic.
17. **WILDLIFE IS EVERYWHERE** - Explore your classroom and school grounds to discover the signs of animals that share your environment.
18. **WILDWORK** - Students portray different animal-related jobs to the class.

