

Trout Lake Nature Center

Grade 1: Plants

Teachers can integrate their programs with other courses of study such as reading, language arts, math and other science concepts. A visit to TLNC at any time of year will be worthwhile for you and your students to engage their interests and extend the courses of study.

Nature of Science can be implemented all year. Teachers can use TLNC's Grade 1: Plants program to help understand the nature of science: observe, hypothesize, measure and record data, ask questions, and investigate in teams.

- **Observe:** Students will observe the stages in the life cycle of plants/trees. (seed, sprout, seedling, large tree, and dead logs).
- **Investigate:** Students will investigate how animals use the different stages in the life cycle of trees.
- **Hypothesize:** Students will form ideas, guesses, and hypotheses about how even a dead and rotting log is an important part of a tree's life cycle.
- **Contrast and Compare:** Students will contrast and compare the different kinds of leaves by doing leaf rubbings and identify at least three common trees at TLNC. (Compare/contrast/classify)
- **Record:** Students will record at least 3 different types of leaves and conclude which tree each comes from through their rubbings.

Pre-Visit Activities: Students should become familiar with the concept of classification before visiting TLNC.

To better prepare your students for their TLNC field experience, the following activities are suggested:

Vocabulary to be used during TLNC visit: Teachers should infuse scientific terms into student vocabulary. Terms that will be used during their TLNC visit are: characteristics, trunk, bark, branches, leaves, roots, ask, observe, measure, science tool, safety, data, investigate, living, non-living, parent, environment, need, nutrient, and shelter.

Activity 1: Have students create a science vocabulary journal.

Activity 2: Have students illustrate selected vocabulary words.

Activity 3: Read *Crinkleroots Guide to Walking in Wild Places* by Arnosky. Teacher reads the book to students and they make a list of all the things that students should do when walking in wild places. This list can be used during their TLNC visit. Use the examples in the story.

Activity 4: Look at the following non-fiction books so students will be aware of some of the plants and animals that may be seen at TLNC. As a post-visit activity, have students compare what they learned with what they knew before their visit or do a KWL sheet.

- *Young Naturalist Guide to Florida* by Peggy Lantz and Wendy Hale
- *Florida Fabulous* series
- *Golden book of plants*

Post Visit Activity Suggestions

Activity 1: Have students set up a chart to track lunch room meals for one week. Write down the meals and what plants are in each meal. Add up how many plants are in those

meals each day for a total amount. Graph the results for that week. You can do one day. (This activity was excerpted from Project Learning Tree).

Activity 2: Have students read one or more of the following books.

Fiction:

***Cactus Hotel* by Brenda Gulbertson.** Teachers will read the story to students. Chart or graph the life stages of the cacti and the animals that used the cactus at those stages and compare them with the plants animals that live at Trout Lake Nature Center.

***The Lorax* by Dr.Seuss.** Students can view the video and discuss the implication of what happened in the story. Use a Venn diagram to compare and contrast before and after effects. Students can visit a natural area and decide what would happen if all the trees were cut down.

Non-fiction: Use any simple non-fiction plant guides for students to read and develop signs about the plants or their leaves from TLNC.

Activity 3: Draw a picture and write about a Florida tree.

Activity 4: Draw a picture of a tree and label its parts.

Activity 5: Write a thank you note to TLNC's sponsors for your field trip to TLNC and include one thing you learned on the field trip.

1. City of Eustis
2. Lake County Board of County Commissioners
3. Lake County Water Authority
4. Lake County School Board

Activity 6: Go to one of the websites listed below.

www.plt.org/sample-lesson-plan/early-childhood/shape-of-things/: Or go to www.plt.org. Then select the curriculum tab and select sample lessons. Go to The Shape of Things activity. Collect different types of leaves and make designs using those shapes.

www.fnps.org/resources/pubs: A downloadable coloring pages with information about the plant and animals that use that plant can be found.