

Connecting Kids to Nature

Try this activity in a forest—a natural place to learn!

For over 30 years, Project Learning Tree® has used the forest as a “window” to help young people gain an awareness of the world around them and their place within it. Blending a walk in the forest with a fun and engaging PLT activity creates a powerful learning experience for children of all ages. Here’s one idea in a series from PLT that introduces the concept of forest cycles.

Activity 79: Tree Lifecycle

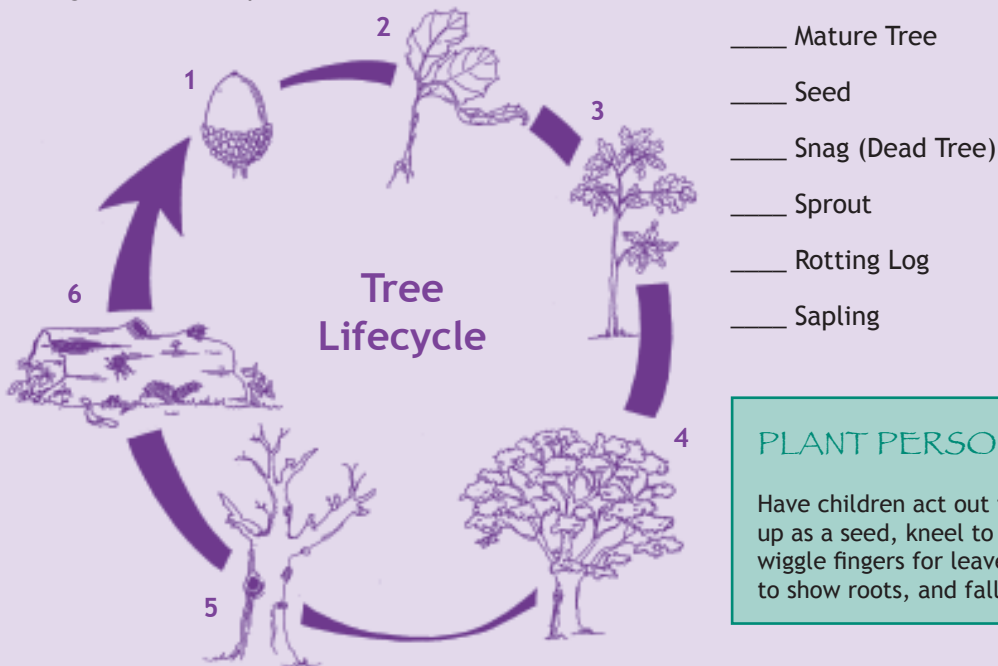
In this activity, students will discover that trees have a lifecycle that is similar to that of other living things.

Doing the Activity

Trees have a lifecycle that includes birth, growth, injury and disease, aging, and death. The next time you are in the presence of trees, ask children to identify the various stages of a tree’s life.

- Are trees alive? How do you know?
- How are trees born? Do they die?
- How does a tree’s life compare to the life of a person?
- Can you find a young tree? An adult tree? An elderly tree? A dead tree?

Have children match up the tree lifecycle images below with their correct name using the numbers provided.



PLANT PERSONIFICATION

Have children act out the lifecycle of a tree. They can curl up as a seed, kneel to sprout, stick up arms as branches, wiggle fingers for leaves, stand up to grow tall, spread feet to show roots, and fall over to die.

Adapted from Activity 79: Tree Lifecycle from Project Learning Tree’s *PreK-8 Environmental Education Activity Guide*.

Discover how PLT can help you teach... from nature!

- Attend, host, or sponsor a local PLT workshop where participants receive PLT activity guides, ideas, and materials.
- Contact your PLT State Coordinator. Visit www.plt.org or call 202-463-2475 for their contact information.

Answers: 1. Seed, 2. Sprout, 3. Sapling, 4. Mature Tree, 5. Snag (Dead Tree), 6. Rotting Log

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