

Environmental Education (EE) for the Urban Environment

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Objectives

1. Review significant events of EE
2. Examine EE curricula
 - Project Learning Tree (PLT)
 - Project WILD
 - Project WET (Water Education Today)
3. Discuss why PLT, WILD, and WET materials are excellent materials for use in urban environments

My EE Experience

- Involved in EE for over 20 years
- Co-founder of Advanced Training for Environmental Education in Georgia (ATEEG)
- Served on Executive Board of Georgia Environmental Education Alliance
- Teach EE-focused service-learning course at UGA
- Co-Director of EE Certificate at UGA
- Georgia PLT Co-Coordinator
- Author STEM Strategies for national PLT program



Significant Events for EE

Belgrade Charter
(1975)

Tbilisi Declaration
(1977)

Belgrade Charter

“The goal of environmental education is to develop a world population that is aware of, and concerned about, the environment and its associated problems, and which has the knowledge, skills, attitudes, motivations, and commitment to work individually and collectively toward solutions of current problems and the prevention of new ones”.

Tbilisi Declaration

Awareness

- acquire sensitivity to environment

Knowledge

- constructed through experience

Attitudes

- values and feelings of concern

Skills

- to identify and solve problems

Participation (Action)

- engage to find resolution

Evolution of PLT, WILD, and WET Curricula



An initiative of SFI



Webpage: plt.org



project **WET**

WATER EDUCATION TODAY

Webpage: projectwet.org

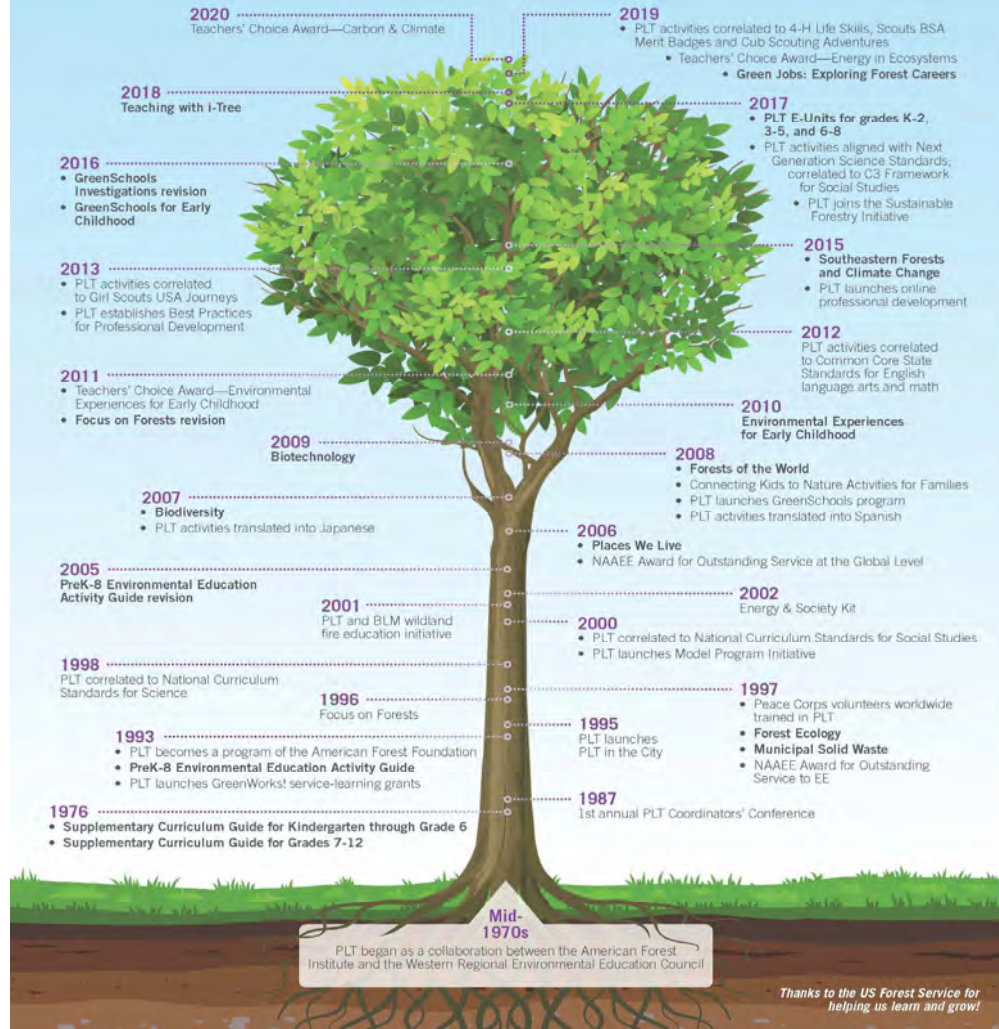


Webpage: fishwildlife.org/projectwild

PLT



A BRIEF HISTORY



WILD



- **1983** Project WILD Guide published
- **1987** WILD Aquatic Guide released
- **2000** Major Revision of activities and new learning framework
- **2006** One million people trained
- **2009** Premier of Growing Up WILD
- **2017** Transferred to the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA)
- **2018** New Terrestrial and Aquatic Activity Guides released

WET



What is happening?

- Earth Day, Clean Water Act, PLT and WILD programs offered
- **1989** Project WET was created
- **2005** Expansion of the WET network to all 50 states and 19 countries
- **2011** New activity guide released

Why use these curricula?



Tested and approved by formal and non-formal educators



Encourage learners to get outside to explore and observe our natural world



Interdisciplinary

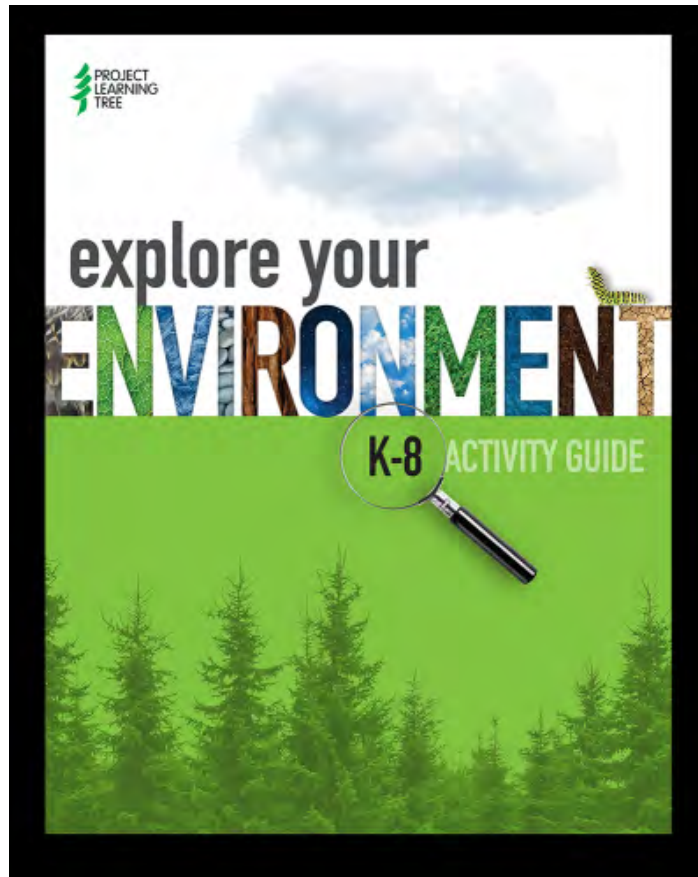


Fosters critical thinking and problem solving



Do not require a forest, wilderness, or river. Urban environment is full of opportunities

PLT



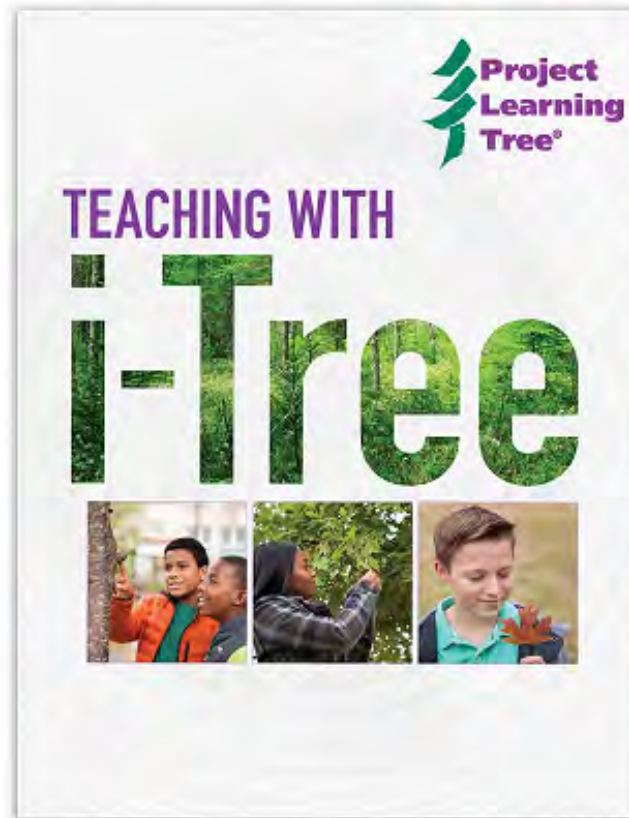
- NEW K-8 curriculum
- 50 activities
- Great for urban environments
- Data collection and observations

PLT



- Explore and investigate environments and issues
- Discover value of different landscapes
- Flexible design of activities

PLT



- Middle and high school grades
- Discover and analyze trees
- Requires data collection and input
- Applicable beyond the classroom
- Created by US Forest Service

PLT

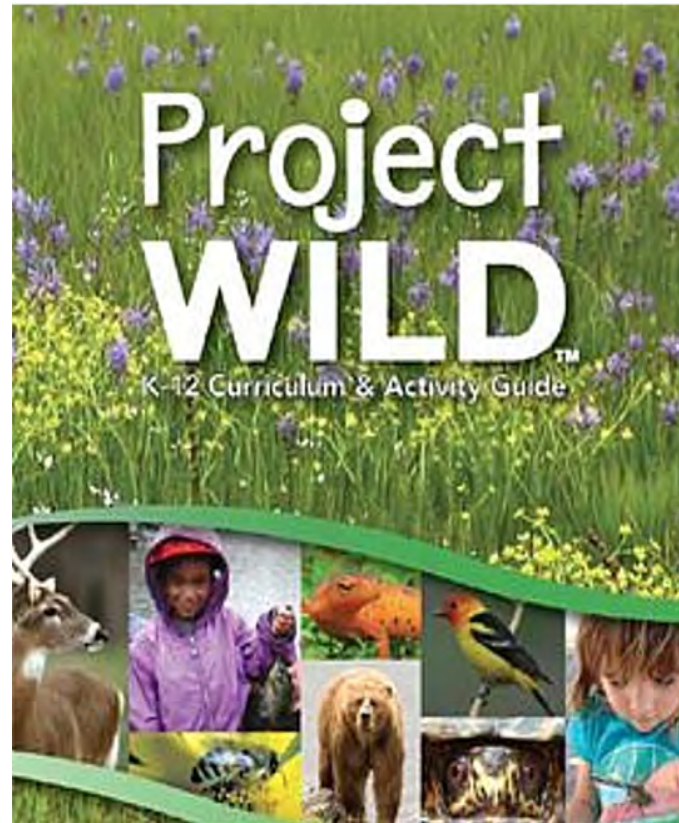


- Place-based
- Build connection
- Explore current and future issues



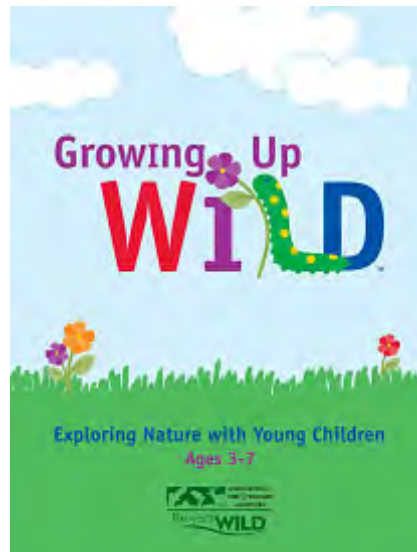
- Explore interrelationships
- Waste management strategies and solutions

WILD



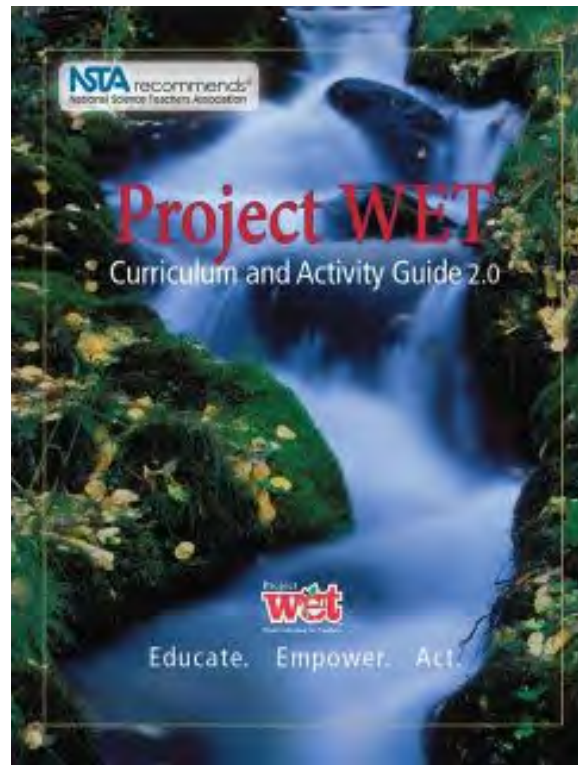
- Wildlife-based conservation education
- Promote responsible action toward wildlife and natural resources
- Field investigations
- STEM extensions
- Careers

WILD



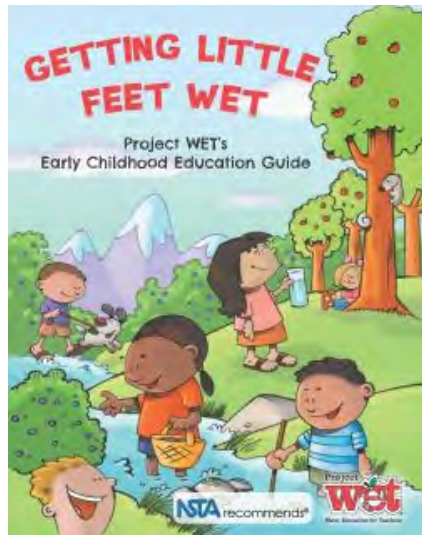
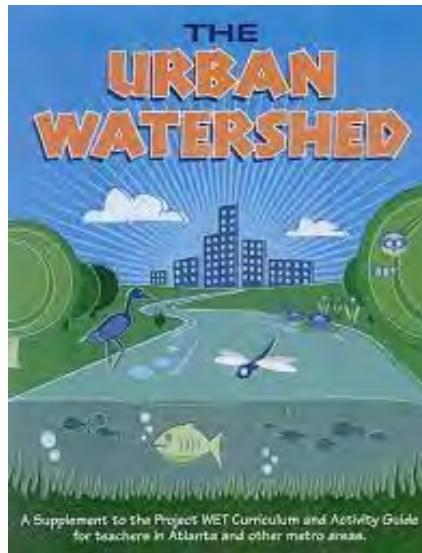
- Over 40 activities
- Migration, habitats, and what people can do to help
- Builds on sense of wonder
- 27 activities, over 400 experiences to share
- Aligned with Head Start Child Development and USDA MyPlate guidelines

WET



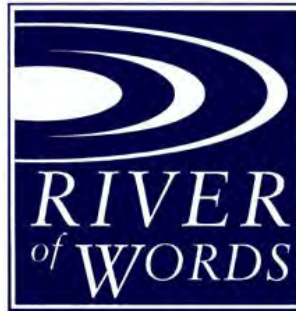
- Cutting-edge water education
- 63 activities
- Students learn to...
 - Discover their role in the hydrological cycle
 - Analyze their water footprint
 - Recognize that water connects us all, there are no boundaries

WET



- Where does the water come from?
- Difference between natural and man-made watersheds
- 11 activities
- Water properties to water sounds

WET



- Free program for K-12 students
- Expression of knowledge through poetry and art
- Connects science and art



WET



Discoverwater.org

- Interactive
- All students

Awareness to Action

- **A:** PLT, WILD, and WET are perfect for the urban environment
- **K:** Power to educate and engage all learners
- **A:** Evidenced the quality of materials
- **S:** Contact state coordinators
- **A:** What will you do?

Thank
You!

