

**CORRELATION BETWEEN PROJECT LEARNING
TREE ACTIVITIES (K-12) AND THE NATIONAL
CURRICULUM STANDARDS FOR SOCIAL STUDIES**

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INTRODUCTION THE CORRELATIONS

Setting national education standards is part of the education reform movement that has been occurring across the country over the past decade and a half. As part of this reform movement, the Curriculum Standards for Social Studies, published by the National Council for the Social Studies in 1994, were developed to provide a set of criteria against which we can measure the quality of social studies education.

The purpose of *this* document is to provide educators with an easy reference guide as to how Project Learning Tree's activities for students in grades k through 12 correlate to the National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies.

The document is divided into three parts:

- **Part I** is the correlation for grades k - 4;
- **Part II** is the correlation for grades 5 - 8; and
- **Part III** is the correlation for grades 9 - 12.

Finding what you need:

Within each part the correlation is indexed two ways. The first is **by curriculum standard**. Each curriculum standard for social studies is listed according to its fundamental concepts in column one. The PLT conceptual framework theme is listed in column two, the specific activities (within that theme) which support the corresponding standard are listed in column three, and the appropriate grade level is listed in column four. The correlation symbol (see below for a description) is listed next to the activity in column three.

For example:

CURRICULUM STANDARDS FOR SOCIAL STUDIES (Middle Grades)	PLT ACTIVITIES — PreK–8 Activity Guide		
I. CULTURE	PLT Conceptual Framework Theme	PLT Activity #, Title, & Correlation Symbol	Grade(s)

You can use the **curriculum standard index** to identify individual PLT activities that support a specific standard. Or, you can use this section to identify a group of activities that can be used together to cover a particular standard.

The second index is **by PLT activity**. The title of each PLT activity is listed in column one, followed by the correlation symbol in column two (see below for a description of the correlation symbols). The appropriate grade level is listed in column three and the curriculum standards for social studies that are covered by the activity are listed in column four.

For example:

PLT Activity Number and Title	Correlation Symbol	Grade(s)	Social Studies Curriculum Standard(s) -- # and letter
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You can use the **PLT activity index** if you have a particular PLT activity in mind and you want to know which of the curriculum standards for social studies it supports.

The Correlation Symbols:

At the bottom of each page you will find a key to the symbols that appear after each activity title. A filled in circle, ● indicates that the concept is a main focus of the activity. A circle with a dot in the middle, ⊙ indicates that the concept is *part* of the focus of the activity. And an open circle, ○ indicates that the concept is addressed in the activity.

While this document addresses the social studies standards at the national level, many of the Project Learning Tree state programs have correlated the PLT activities to state-specific standards for social studies. If you are interested in finding out more information about your state, please contact your PLT state coordinator. PLT coordinator contact information may be found on the PLT web site at www.plt.org, under “How do I get PLT?”

We hope you find this document useful and we welcome any comments you may have.

Sincerely,

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