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.

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

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.

PLT improves children’s environmental awareness, critical thinking skills, and academic performance.
- Attend a workshop near you to receive PreK-12 PLT activities, ideas, and materials.
- Encourage your child’s school to incorporate outdoor learning and PLT.
- Learn more at www.plt.org or call 202-765-3641