

Careers

GRADES 6–8

Guiding Question

What green jobs are there in the forest and conservation sector?

Connecting Concepts

- Typically as human populations and per-capita consumption of natural resources increase, so do the negative impacts on Earth unless the activities and technologies involved are engineered otherwise. (NGSS, ESS3.C: Human Impacts on Earth Systems)
- Use appropriate data to evaluate the state of employment, unemployment, inflation, total production, income, and economic growth in the economy. (C3 Framework, D2.Eco.11.6–8)
- The forest sector generates diverse employment opportunities for scientists, harvesting professionals, truckers, factory workers, engineers, architects, wildland firefighters, carbon modelers, and many more. (PLT FLF, 2.C.2)
- The forest sector is diverse and growing. It provides critical resources and products to the global marketplace, including lumber, plywood, engineered wood products, packaging, paper, and fabric. (PLT FLF, 2.C.6)

Scope and Sequence

The collection and order of content below supports an intentional student learning progression.

Activity	Description
Every Tree for Itself (in Grades 3–5, see 6–8 Variation)	Students engage in an active simulation of how trees compete for resources and learn about careers related to forest management
My Green Future (in Grades 3–5)	Students explore a variety of jobs that are directly related to forest resources.
Nature's Skyscrapers	Students measure the height and trunk circumference of a tree, as forest technicians do.
Our Federal Forests	Students explore how forests are managed by foresters to meet a variety of human and environmental needs.
If You Were the Boss	Students play the role of forest manager for a public forest, exploring the complex factors that influence management decisions about forest lands.

See plt.org/academic-standards for detailed standards correlations for each activity.

Storyline

Students explore green jobs in the forest and conservation sector, which provide opportunities to ensure that forests are managed sustainably while serving the needs of society and nature.

Storyline continued on next page.



Careers (cont.)

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- Begin with the activity Every Tree for Itself. As suggested in the variation for Grades 6–8, first conduct the simulation and then introduce different forest sector careers related to forest management, such as forester, wildland firefighter, or wildlife biologist. (Try using the Who Works in this Forest? Student Page in the activity My Green Future .)
- Next, use the Enrichment suggestions in the activity My Green Future as a jumping-off point for a deeper exploration of forest-related careers. For example, you might invite one or more guest speakers whose jobs relate to forests and have students ask them about their jobs, or have students conduct internet research on different forest jobs.
- Next, provide students experience doing different forest sector jobs. In the activity Nature's Skyscrapers, students learn how to measure trees as a forest technician might. In the activity Our Federal Forests, they explore how foresters manage forests to satisfy a variety of human and environmental needs. And in If You Were the Boss, students develop a forest plan as a forest manager would. Encourage students to articulate how each of these jobs helps to ensure the sustainability of our forests.
- Conclude the unit by asking students what forest sector job appeals to them most and why.

