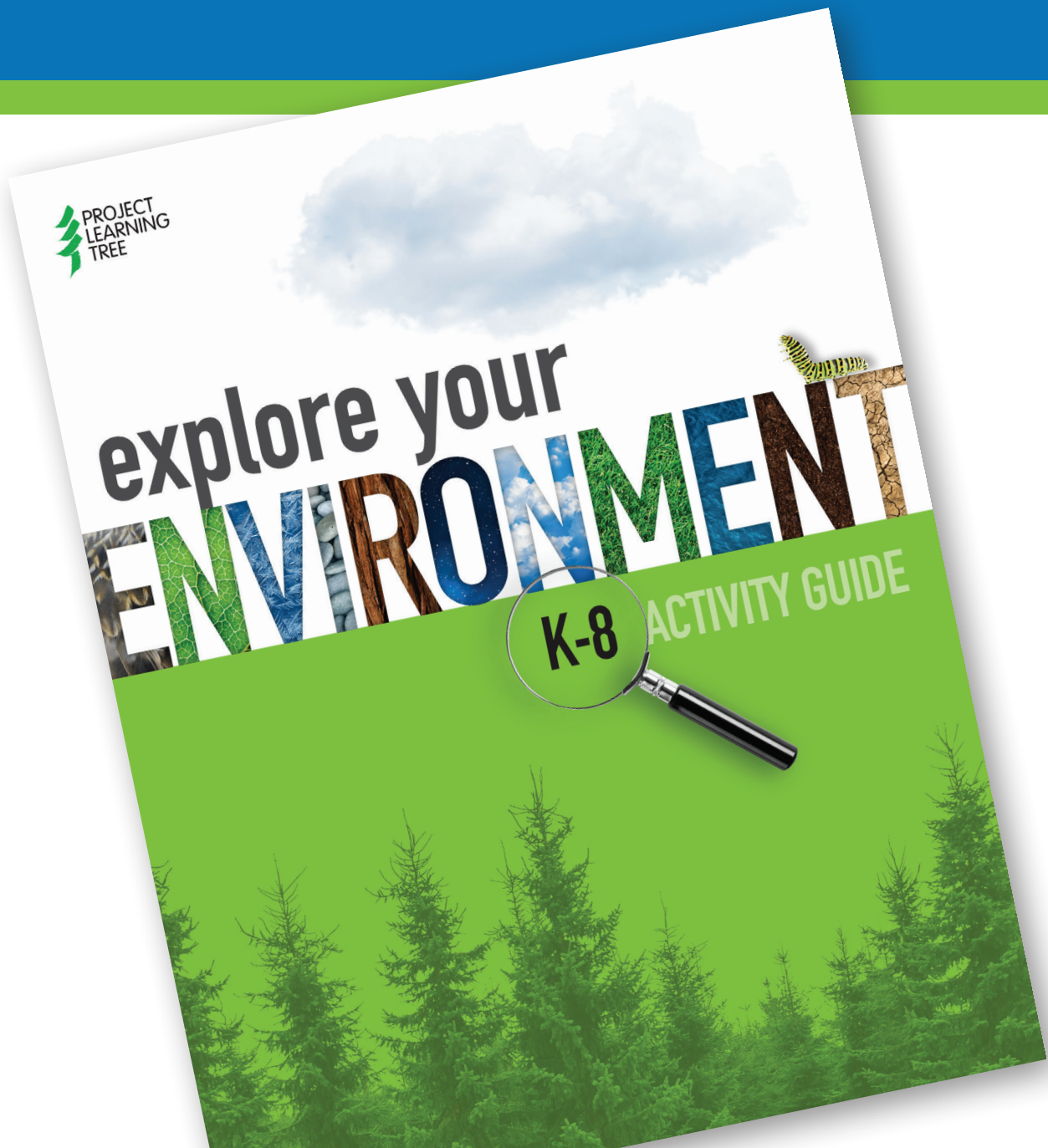


# CONNECTING PLT'S EXPLORE YOUR ENVIRONMENT TO COMMON CORE



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## INTRODUCTION

Using this Toolkit .....	1
Keep in Mind .....	1
Professional Network .....	2

## GRADES K-2 CONTENT CONNECTIONS

English Language Arts .....	3
Mathematics .....	4

## GRADES 3-5 CONTENT CONNECTIONS

English Language Arts .....	5
Mathematics .....	6

## GRADES 6-8 CONTENT CONNECTIONS

English Language Arts .....	7
Mathematics .....	9



# INTRODUCTION

Project Learning Tree is committed to supporting educators in providing instruction that helps students meet English language arts and mathematics education standards. Activities in the *Explore Your Environment: K-8 Activity Guide* involve exploring the real world through learner-centered, multidisciplinary investigations that promote inquiry and problem solving. They provide students opportunities to practice language and mathematical skills as they investigate their environment and communicate about it.

The following charts include explicit connections to *Common Core State Standards—English Language Arts* and *Common Core State Standards—Mathematics* for specified grade levels. It allows you to easily find corresponding *Explore Your Environment* activities that address specific Common Core standards in Grades K–2, Grades 3–5, and Grades 6–8. See [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org) to access the entire Common Core State Standards (CCSS).

## USING THIS TOOLKIT

To help you identify PLT activities that meet your Common Core instructional needs, all CCSS charts contain the following symbols:

- A hollow square (□) means that the Doing the Activity section of an activity supports the standard.
- A solid square (■) means the Doing the Activity section has a strong standards connection.
- An “E” means that the activity’s Enrichment supports the standard.
- Note: An activity may correlate to the standard in the Doing the Activity section, the Enrichment section, or in both sections.

## KEEP IN MIND

This resource can be used to connect *Explore Your Environment* activities to key English language arts and mathematics topics—even in locations where the Common Core State Standards have not been adopted. At this time, forty-one states, the District of Columbia, four territories, and the Department of Defense Education Activity have adopted Common Core.

**The CCSS content connections are based on *Explore Your Environment* activities, as written. They do not take into account the myriad ways educators can modify activities to address a standard more directly or completely.**

As you work through the Common Core content connections, remember:

- If the content of the standard is referred to in the activity’s background information, but not incorporated in the Doing the Activity or Enrichment sections, it is not included as a connection.
- For English Language Arts, only the relevant Anchor Standards are shown. Relevant Standards for Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects are only available and included for Grades 6–8.
- For Mathematics, Standards for Mathematical Practice as well as relevant domain-specific Anchor Standards are shown.

## PROFESSIONAL NETWORK

Our PLT network, spanning all 50 states and several international locations, provides educators with hands-on professional development, state-specific supplements that address local academic standards and environmental issues, and customized assistance for adopting environmental education. The link below provides contact information for the PLT coordinator in your state. Please consider this an invitation to reach out and get involved today!

### CONTACT YOUR PLT STATE COORDINATOR FOR:

- Local resources and assistance
- Ideas for incorporating environmental education and outdoor learning into your program
- Connections to mentor teachers, community members, and natural resource professionals
- Information about in-person professional development events near you
- Becoming a PLT professional development facilitator

### EXPERIENCE PLT'S PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TO:

- Gain new teaching skills, deepen your content knowledge, and become comfortable teaching outdoors
- Receive instructional materials tailored to your state's standards
- Experience PLT activities, develop an action plan, and get lesson planning tips specific to your setting
- Get access to a network of professionals and support
- Earn continuing education credits

## GET CONNECTED TODAY

<https://www.plt.org/yourstate>



### COMMON CORE ANCHOR STANDARDS:

### EXPLORE YOUR ENVIRONMENT K-2 ACTIVITIES:

	A TREE'S LIFE	ADOPT A TREE	BACKYARD SAFARI	BIRDS AND BUGS	BURSTING BUDS	DID YOU NOTICE?	HAVE SEEDS, WILL TRAVEL	HERE WE GROW AGAIN	MAKE YOUR OWN PAPER	PEPPERMINT BEETLE	THE CLOSER YOU LOOK	TREES AS HABITATS	WE ALL NEED TREES
<b>WRITING</b>													
1. Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.								■					
2. Write informative/ explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.	□	□, E	□	E	□			□	E		■, E	□	
3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well chosen details, and well structured event sequences.	□, E	□, E				■, E		□, E		E			
5. Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.	E												
6. Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others.								E					
7. Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.			□, E	E			□, E	□	E	E		□	
8. Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, assess the credibility and accuracy of each source, and integrate the information while avoiding plagiarism.	□, E	□	□	□		□, E				□		□	□
<b>SPEAKING AND LISTENING</b>													
1. Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.	■, E	■	■	■	□	■	■	□	□	■	□, E	□	■
2. Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.	■	□	□	□			□	□	□			□	
3. Evaluate a speaker's point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric.		□	□	□	□			□	□			□	E
4. Present information, findings, and supporting evidence such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.		□, E	□	E	□, E	■	□			□		□	□
5. Make strategic use of digital media and visual displays of data to express information and enhance understanding of presentations.		□, E	□, E	E	E	□	□	□	E		□, E	□	
6. Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and communicative tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
<b>LANGUAGE</b>													
4. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words.	□	□											
<b>READING INFORMATIONAL TEXT</b>													
2. Determine the main idea of a text; recount the key details and explain how they support the main idea.													□

COMMON CORE MATH ANCHOR STANDARDS:	EXPLORE YOUR ENVIRONMENT K-2 ACTIVITIES:												
	A TREE'S LIFE	ADOPT A TREE	BACKYARD SAFARI	BIRDS AND BUGS	BURSTING BUDS	DID YOU NOTICE?	HAVE SEEDS, WILL TRAVEL	HERE WE GROW AGAIN	MAKE YOUR OWN PAPER	PEPPERMINT BEETLE	THE CLOSER YOU LOOK	TREES AS HABITATS	WE ALL NEED TREES
<b>STANDARDS FOR MATHEMATICAL PRACTICE</b>													
Reason abstractly and quantitatively.				□	□			□					
Model with mathematics.													
Use appropriate tools strategically.		□					□	□					
<b>KINDERGARTEN</b>													
Counting and Cardinality: Know number names and the count sequence.			□, E	□									
Counting and Cardinality: Count to tell the number of objects.			■, E	■				□					
Counting and Cardinality: Compare numbers.			E	□									
Measurement and Data: Describe and compare measurable attributes.								■					
Measurement and Data: Classify objects and count the number of objects in each category.			■, E	■			■						
Geometry: Identify and describe shapes (squares, circles, triangles, rectangles, hexagons, cubes, cones, cylinders, and spheres).		□											
Geometry: Analyze, compare, create, and compose shapes.		□											
<b>GRADE 1</b>													
Operations and Algebraic Thinking: Add and subtract within 20.				□									
Measurement and Data: Measure lengths indirectly and by iterating length units.								□					
Measurement and Data: Represent and interpret data.			□, E	■			■	□					
<b>GRADE 2</b>													
Operations and Algebraic Thinking: Add and subtract within 20.				□									
Measurement and Data: Measure and estimate lengths in standard units.					■		E	■					
Measurement and Data: Represent and interpret data.				■				■					
Geometry: Reason with shapes and their attributes.		□											

Key: A hollow square (□) means the activity correlates to the standard. A solid square (■) means it has a strong correlation. An "E" means that the activity's Enrichment correlates to the standard.





### COMMON CORE ANCHOR STANDARDS:

### EXPLORE YOUR ENVIRONMENT 3-5 ACTIVITIES:

#### WRITING

	CHARTING BIODIVERSITY	DISCOVER DIVERSITY	EVERY DROP COUNTS	EVERY TREE FOR ITSELF	FALLEN LOG	GET OUTSIDE!	MY GREEN FUTURE	PEEK AT PACKAGING	POET-TREE	SIGNS OF FALL	SOIL BUILDERS	TREE COOKIES	TREE FACTORY	TREE ID	TREES FOR MANY REASONS	TREES IN TROUBLE	WATER WONDERS	WEB OF LIFE
1. Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.									E						□	□		
2. Write informative/ explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.	□						E			□								
3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well chosen details, and well structured event sequences.	E								■	E			E		E		□	
4. Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.	□, E				□	□	□, E		■	E	□		E		□, E		□	
5. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.									■									
6. Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.	□								E		□		E					
7. Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.	□	□, E	□		□	□		E		□, E	□, E	□				□, E	□	□
8. Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, assess the credibility and accuracy of each source, and integrate the information while avoiding plagiarism.	□	□	□		□	□, E	E	□		E	□	□	□			□, E	□	□
9. Draw evidence from literacy or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.	E				□							□			□	□		□
10. Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.	E				E	E				E	□, E					□, E		

#### SPEAKING AND LISTENING

1. Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.	□	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■, E	□	■	□	■	□	■, E	■	■, E	□
2. Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.		■	□												■			
3. Evaluate a speaker's point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric.		□	□		E					□	□			□	□	□	□	
4. Present information, findings, and supporting evidence such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.	■	■	■		■	□	□	□		■	■				■			
5. Make strategic use of digital media and visual displays of data to express information and enhance understanding of presentations.		■			■			■	E	□	□							
6. Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and communicative tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□

#### LANGUAGE

4. Determine or clarify meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases.		□												□				
--	--	---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	---	--	--	--	--

#### READING INFORMATIONAL TEXT

1. Determine the main idea of a text; recount the key details and explain how they support the main idea.															□			□
4. Interpret information presented visually, orally, or quantitatively and explain how the information contributes to an understanding of the text.	□												□					



**COMMON CORE  
MATH ANCHOR STANDARDS:**

**EXPLORE YOUR  
ENVIRONMENT  
3-5 ACTIVITIES:**

	CHARTING BIODIVERSITY	DISCOVER DIVERSITY	EVERY DROP COUNTS	EVERY TREE FOR ITSELF	FALLEN LOG	GET OUTSIDE!	MY GREEN FUTURE	PEEK AT PACKAGING	POET-TREE	SIGNS OF FALL	SOIL BUILDERS	TREE COOKIES	TREE FACTORY	TREE ID	TREES FOR MANY REASONS	TREES IN TROUBLE	WATER WONDERS	WEB OF LIFE	
<b>STANDARDS FOR MATHEMATICAL PRACTICE</b>																			
Reason abstractly and quantitatively.			■	□		■					■	□							□
Model with mathematics.			□	□		■													
Use appropriate tools strategically.											□								
<b>GRADE 3</b>																			
Operations and Algebraic Thinking: Represent and solve problems involving multiplication and division.			■			□													
Operations and Algebraic Thinking: Multiply and divide within 100.			□																
Number and Operations in Base 10: Use place value understanding and properties of operation to perform multi-digit arithmetic.						□													
Measurement and Data: Solve problems involving measurement and estimation of intervals of time, liquid volumes, and masses of objects.			□								□								□
Measurement and Data: Represent and interpret data.				■, E						E	□	□							□
<b>GRADE 4</b>																			
Operations and Algebraic Thinking: Use the four operations with whole numbers to solve problems.			□																
Number and Operations in Base 10: Use place value understanding and properties of operations to perform multi digit arithmetic.			□																
Measurement and Data: Solve problems involving measurement and conversion of measurements from a larger unit to a smaller unit.			□																
<b>GRADE 5</b>																			
Operations and Algebraic Thinking: Write and interpret numerical expressions.			□																
Number and Operations in Base 10: Perform operations with multi digit whole numbers and with decimals to hundredths.			□																
Measurement and Data: Geometric measurement: understand concepts of volume and relate volume to multiplication and to addition.			□																

Key: A hollow square (□) means the activity correlates to the standard. A solid square (■) means it has a strong correlation. An "E" means that the activity's Enrichment correlates to the standard.





### COMMON CORE ANCHOR STANDARDS:

### EXPLORE YOUR ENVIRONMENT 6-8 ACTIVITIES:

	DECISIONS, DECISIONS	ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FOR ALL	EXPLORATION ENERGY!	FIELD, FOREST, AND STREAM	FOREST IN THE CITY	GLOBAL GOODS	IF YOU WERE THE BOSS	IMPROVE YOUR PLACE	INVASIVE SPECIES	LIFE ON THE EDGE	LIVING WITH FIRE	NATURE'S SKYSCRAPERS	NOTHING SUCCEEDS LIKE SUCCESSION	OUR FEDERAL FORESTS	PLANT A TREE	REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE	RENEWABLE OR NOT?	THE GLOBAL CLIMATE	WHAT'S IN A LABEL?	
<b>WRITING</b>																				
1. Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.	□, E	□				E		□		□, E				□					□	
2. Write informative/ explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.	■		■			E		□	□	□, E	□			□					□	□
3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences. .			E		E						E		E							
4. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.	■, E	□, E	■		□, E	E		□	□	■	□		□, E	□	□	□			□	□
5. Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.					□															
6. Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others.	□, E	E	□					□	□	□	E	E		□					□, E	
7. Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.	E	■, E	■, E		E	□, E		□	■, E	■	□, E		□, E	■	□	□	E	□, E	E	
8. Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, assess the credibility and accuracy of each source, and integrate the information while avoiding plagiarism.	E	□	□						■	□	E			□						
9. Draw evidence from literacy or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.	□	□	□			E			□	□, E	□				□				□	E
10. Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.													□		□					
<b>SPEAKING AND LISTENING</b>																				
1. Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.	■, E	■, E	■	■	■	■	■	□	■	□	■, E	■	□	■, E	■, E	■, E	■	■, E	■, E	
2. Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.	■	□		■			■	□		□				■					□	
3. Evaluate a speaker's point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric.	■	□					■, E	□						□, E	□				□	E
4. Present information, findings, and supporting evidence such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.	■, E	□, E	■, E	■		□	■	■	■	■, E	□		□	■	E	□	□	■	□, E	
5. Make strategic use of digital media and visual displays of data to express information and enhance understanding of presentations.	□	□	□, E		□	□	■, E	■	■	■	□, E		■	□		□			□, E	
6. Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and communicative tasks, demonstrating command of formal English	■, E	□, E	□, E	□	□	□	□	□	■	□	□	□	□	□	□, E	□	□, E	□	□, E	

TABLE CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE.



**CONTINUED**

**COMMON CORE ANCHOR STANDARDS:**

**EXPLORE YOUR ENVIRONMENT 6-8 ACTIVITIES:**

	DECISIONS, DECISIONS	ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FOR ALL	EXPLORATION ENERGY!	FIELD, FOREST, AND STREAM	FOREST IN THE CITY	GLOBAL GOODS	IF YOU WERE THE BOSS	IMPROVE YOUR PLACE	INVASIVE SPECIES	LIFE ON THE EDGE	LIVING WITH FIRE	NATURE'S SKYSCRAPERS	NOTHING SUCCEEDS LIKE SUCCESSION	OUR FEDERAL FORESTS	PLANT A TREE	REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE	RENEWABLE OR NOT?	THE GLOBAL CLIMATE	WHAT'S IN A LABEL?
<b>LITERACY IN HISTORY/SOCIAL STUDIES, SCIENCE, AND TECHNICAL SUBJECTS</b>																			
1. Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> E	E		<input type="checkbox"/> E	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
2. Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>				<input type="checkbox"/> E		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of the text.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E		<input type="checkbox"/>		E		<input type="checkbox"/> E	<input type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> E				E			<input type="checkbox"/>				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> E
5. Analyze the structure of texts, including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text (e.g., a section, chapter, scene, or stanza) relate to each other and the whole.													<input type="checkbox"/>						
6. Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of text.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						<input type="checkbox"/>							<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		E	E		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, including the validity of the reasoning as well as the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						E							<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.	<input type="checkbox"/>																		<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently.			E						<input type="checkbox"/>		E								<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>LANGUAGE</b>																			
4. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown or multi-meaning words and phrases.																			<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>READING INFORMATIONAL TEXT</b>																			
7. Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in different media or formats as well as in words in order to address a question or solve a problem.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>							<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>						<input type="checkbox"/>



**COMMON CORE  
MATH ANCHOR STANDARDS:**

**EXPLORE YOUR  
ENVIRONMENT  
6-8 ACTIVITIES:**

	DECISIONS, DECISIONS	ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FOR ALL	EXPLORATION ENERGY!	FIELD, FOREST, AND STREAM	FOREST IN THE CITY	GLOBAL GOODS	IF YOU WERE THE BOSS	IMPROVE YOUR PLACE	INVASIVE SPECIES	LIFE ON THE EDGE	LIVING WITH FIRE	NATURE'S SKYSCRAPERS	NOTHING SUCCEEDS LIKE SUCCESSION	OUR FEDERAL FORESTS	PLANT A TREE	REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE	RENEWABLE OR NOT?	THE GLOBAL CLIMATE	WHAT'S IN A LABEL?
<b>STANDARDS FOR MATHEMATICAL PRACTICE</b>																			
Reason abstractly and quantitatively.			□	□	□		□					□	□	□					□
Model with mathematics.					□		□									□	□		
Use appropriate tools strategically.				□								□							
Attend to precision.																□			
<b>GRADE 6</b>																			
Ratios and Proportional Relationships: Understand ratio concepts and use ratio reasoning to solve problems.							□				E	□			E	□		□	□
The Number System: Compute fluently with multi-digit numbers and find common factors and multiples.							□					□							
Expressions and Equations: Apply and extend previous understandings of arithmetic to algebraic expressions.												□							
Expressions and Equations: Reason about and solve one variable equations and inequalities.									E			□							
Expressions and Equations: Represent and analyze quantitative relationships between dependent and independent variables.									E										□
Statistics and Probability: Develop understanding of statistical variability.					□		□				E	□	□			E	□	□	
Statistics and Probability: Summarize and describe distributions.			□		□						E	□	□			E	□	□	
<b>GRADE 7</b>																			
Ratios and Proportional Relationships: Analyze proportional relationships and use them to solve real world and mathematical problems.													□						
The Number System: Apply and extend previous understanding of operations with fractions to add, subtract, multiply, and divide rational numbers.							■						□						
Expressions and Equations: Solve real life and mathematical problems using numerical and algebraic expressions and equations.							□		E										
<b>GRADE 8</b>																			
Expressions and Equations: Analyze and solve linear equations and pairs of simultaneous linear equations.									□										
Statistics and Probability: Investigate patterns of association in bivariate data.					□								□						□

Key: A hollow square (□) means the activity correlates to the standard. A solid square (■) means it has a strong correlation. An "E" means that the activity's Enrichment correlates to the standard.