

FAMILY ACTIVITY



Nature is a great teacher, and getting kids outside to learn and play is good for their brains and their bodies. Try this outdoor activity from Project Learning Tree®—it's safe, fun, and educational!

THEN AND NOW

Investigate changes in your community over time.

If your community is like most others, it has changed a lot in the past 100, 50, 25, or even five years. By viewing pictures and interviewing elders, children can begin to understand how people affect the environment in which they live.

Like forests and other ecosystems, our communities are continuously undergoing both gradual and abrupt changes. For example, a urban tree may fall in a storm or a whole transportation systems may evolve over time.

Take a walk in your neighborhood to find examples of how it is changing. Look for recent changes, such as a new road, store, or house. Also look for indicators of change related to wildlife and plants, such as an old tree or a fresh tree stump. How did those changes make you feel? How might these changes affect the people in the community? How might they affect other living things in the community?

Have children learn more about their neighborhood's history by interviewing a grandparent or elder who has lived there for many years. Begin with the questions below, or have children write their own.

MAKE LEARNING FUN!

Encourage your child's school to incorporate outdoor learning by connecting with your local PLT program.

Contact the Louisiana PLT State Coordinator:
Stacy Blomquist
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INTERVIEW: ASK THE ELDERS

1. How long have you lived in the community, neighborhood, or town? _____
2. How has the area changed during that time? What changes have you played a role in?

3. Which of these changes connect to trees, plants, animals, air, water, land, or other elements of nature?

4. Have the changes helped or hurt you in any way? If so, how?

5. Have the changes helped or hurt the community? If so, how?

Visit plt.org/louisiana for more!