



DALLAS ARBORETUM

Education

*Garden STEM at Home*  
*Forest for the Trees*



WE GROW MINDS, TOO.





## OBJECTIVE:

STUDENTS WILL EXPLORE HUMAN IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT BY ROLE-PLAYING THE MANAGEMENT OF A TREE FARM.

## SOURCE

Project Learning Tree PreK-8 Activity Guide

## BACKGROUND

The United States is home to over 700 million acres of forestland, a full third of the total land base of the country. These forests are managed by three types of groups: public agencies, forest industries and private families.

Privately owned forests are managed with different objectives in mind - lumber, wildlife protection, soil erosion control and recreation are just some of these uses.

The American Tree Farm System (ATFS), established in 1941, provides private owners educational information to maintain their forests sustainably. To be certified with ATFS, owners must manage their lands to meet four criteria: wood, water, wildlife and recreation.

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Ask students to define a tree farm and explore the American Tree Farm System website.
2. Create a poster or digital presentation that shares each of the standards of sustainability needed to be an ATFS certified forest.
3. Explain the role of each action in forest management: thinning of trees, harvesting for firewood/paper, harvesting for lumber, natural disasters (wildfire, insect infestation or plant disease), and providing wildlife habitat.
4. Analyze the Forest Stand Puzzle, linked below, and explain the logical sequence in which they occur (Answer: CABFED).
5. Role play being a family forest manager: read the Forest Silvicultural Systems page below, and, using the information you've learned, decide which system you'd choose for your plot and explain why.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Download the Forest for the Trees Student Pages from PLT:

[https://www.plt.org/wp-content/uploads/pdf/PLTPreK-8\\_Activity-69\\_Forest-for-the-Trees\\_Student-Page\\_Forest-Silvicultural-Systems.pdf](https://www.plt.org/wp-content/uploads/pdf/PLTPreK-8_Activity-69_Forest-for-the-Trees_Student-Page_Forest-Silvicultural-Systems.pdf)

[https://www.plt.org/wp-content/uploads/pdf/PLTPreK-8\\_Activity-69\\_Forest-for-the-Trees\\_Student-Page\\_Forest-Stand-Puzzle.pdf](https://www.plt.org/wp-content/uploads/pdf/PLTPreK-8_Activity-69_Forest-for-the-Trees_Student-Page_Forest-Stand-Puzzle.pdf)

Explore the Forest for the Trees Additional Resources Guide from PLT:

<https://www.plt.org/activity-resources/prek-8-activity-69-forest-for-the-trees/>

Explore the American Tree Farm System website:

<https://www.treefarmssystem.org/what-does-tree-farm-certification-mean>

<https://www.treefarmssystem.org/intro-to-the-2015-2020-standards-of-sustainability>