



DALLAS ARBORETUM
Education

Garden STEM at Home
Environmental Exchange Box



WE GROW MINDS, TOO.

ENVIRONMENTAL EXCHANGE BOX



OBJECTIVE:

STUDENTS WILL DISCOVER THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A LOCAL FORESTED AREA AND COMPARE THESE CHARACTERISTICS WITH ANOTHER REGION.

SOURCE

Project Learning Tree PreK-8 Activity Guide

BACKGROUND

Every region is home to uniquely adapted plant and animal species that call it home. Many native species have also found their way into regional products, like maple syrup or pecan treats.

Prior to creating your exchange box, be sure to check with local or state departments of agriculture or your local extension office to ensure the items you send are not regulated. If an item is regulated, you may consider sending photographs or electronic media.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Prior to beginning, find a partner school or organization from somewhere else in the state or country. If you need assistance email information@plt.org for a match.
2. Explain to your kids/students that you will do an environmental exchange with other kids that don't know much about where you live.
3. Brainstorm a list of items that you could include (physical objects or photographs) that represent where you live, including, but not limited to: written descriptions, photographs, books, regional foods based on local plants, natural objects such as nuts, leaves or pressed flowers (collected in approved areas), significant cultural events, etc.
4. While you wait for your partner box to arrive, connect via email, virtual conference or other electronic method to share more about your regions. When the box arrives, share the "unboxing" experience together.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Explore the Environmental Exchange Box Texas Connections Resource Guide from PLT:
http://www.plttexas.org/uploadedFiles/Websites/PLT_Texas/Content/Texas_Connection/Activity%2020%20Environmental%20Exchange%20Box.pdf

Explore the Environmental Exchange Box Additional Resources Guide from PLT:
<https://www.plt.org/activity-resources/prek-8-activity-20-environmental-exchange-box/>

Explore one Environmental Exchange Box journey:
<https://www.plt.org/story/an-environmental-exchange-box-journey/>