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| RI Science Teachers Association shares opportunities in science education for teachers and students.

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| Science Update |
| September 12, 2016 |

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|  https://ci4.googleusercontent.com/proxy/HSxaHRf6IlkZL1wC-ZKovlDC2ChWhuwMpubiexttqk4-R6FubdFbpxtshiQ6mnHLgbezjFk1QMyMo5rPmdeyV9CCe-3UJjPlfw=s0-d-e1-ft#http://www.rista.us/resources/Pictures/IMG_2394.JPG |

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| Wishing you all a safe and productive school year full of great learning for both you and your students!

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***Join us for the first RISTA event of the year!!*****NGSS EQuIP Rubric Training- October 17 & 18****Do not miss this opportunity to be trained by NGSS Trainers to use the EQuIP Rubric!*** **Two full days of training with two trainers who helped to develop the EQuIP Rubric**
* **Dig deep into 3-dimensional learning:  Core Ideas, Crosscutting Concepts & Practices.**
* **Evaluate resources to determine their alignment to the NGSS.**
* **Learn to use the rubric to consider resources as you plan lesson progressions.**
* **Get the opportunity to help build a bank of lessons for all RI science educators.**

**Registration is open NOW at [www.rista.us](http://www.rista.us/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)****but space is limited!                          [Get a printable handout at this link!](https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B_CKozhXUcpmT1lHZ1A5VjBxZEE" \t "_blank)****Congratulations to the FOUR RI Awardees for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching**The Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) is the highest recognition that a kindergarten through 12th-grade mathematics or science teacher may receive for outstanding teaching in the United States. Enacted by Congress in 1983, this program authorizes the President to bestow up to 108 awards each year. The National Science Foundation administers PAEMST on behalf of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.  Awards are given to mathematics and science teachers from each of the fifty states and four U.S. jurisdictions. The teachers are recognized for their contributions to teaching and learning and their ability to help students make progress in mathematics and science.Congratulations to the Rhode Island PAEMST national award winners: 2014 Mathematics—***Barbara Pellegrino****, Harold F Scott Elementary School in Warwick*  2014 Science—***Debra Turchetti-Ramm****, Sarah Dyer Barnes Elementary School in Johnston*  2015 Mathematics—***Kristen Jahnz****, Cumberland High School*2015 Science—***Anthony Borgueta****, Barrington Middle School* For more information about this year’s awardees, go to the White House web page at [https://goo.gl/tDrLoL](https://goo.gl/tDrLoL%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)To learn more about the awards or to nominate someone, go to[www.paemst.org](http://www.paemst.org/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) **NGSS Resources** *(Taken from NGSS Monthly Bulletin)***[Webinar: Engineering and the Design Process: Real-World Classroom Resources for Grades 4-12](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001eAVKHDeaHCXZSmQobNkKRxLIzhW4FOOr4JmN6947xkyYBYJGOkOpyKVU32RrE5IfKdy17e7VCh-W3q-j9QEZlIBKGmEWvTn8dslyRtxve7FoiGgH_3K-_NplBMRuin9WN_JBlRm7csL6LwMSuzCOhUWgV4saR01OyE9_cWne-Lmp7YIPqpz23_80nqD-CPx7gzs5eyqa9dN3cmWsqC7phR700C24LuRuEn0XiYQM5SNUs02XPAT41Cs_Jz1aL0Y-wlG5e9q4L7Y-lRMwx_7jrhNtw34hfP8jKvU3FeVaFSM=&c=zseAZXaoCK7Jhzcol8ADv4IdEEBapQIdUOtqggBep1IFdIuJZJVGBg==&ch=Faxtd2QvXvBuZDcQzdDSzsqbSIVgR1qD73D-5URaphezqwyyqYLSwA==" \t "_blank)**Watch this presentation by PBS LearningMedia in partnership with WGBH Education, the Teaching Channel, and Boeing about how educators can support students' understanding of the engineering design process. It features educators discussing how they have faced challenges while implementing science standards as well as video and interactive media resources that support the middle and high school Engineering Design core ideas and practices of states' NGSS-related standards. Free and readily available resources include the [Teaching Channel modules](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001eAVKHDeaHCXZSmQobNkKRxLIzhW4FOOr4JmN6947xkyYBYJGOkOpyFdA13_5G8rriHSiY70WCMAIBq59Xdq29Aw0EBQjIZOJMurP5eYNZEYVojfoHgfk_Fa8WFcOJrlcEoIYdaSAdGXrTSzjiA7yADZK5CSCPa5L5OnmqckKC7-yf2Ko1FSQFntelPvedwNhi_sNU0hG5NOFnZO34dCHPynClClXT1EY&c=zseAZXaoCK7Jhzcol8ADv4IdEEBapQIdUOtqggBep1IFdIuJZJVGBg==&ch=Faxtd2QvXvBuZDcQzdDSzsqbSIVgR1qD73D-5URaphezqwyyqYLSwA==" \t "_blank)**Science Educators needed for Peer Review Panel**Achieve is excited to announce the creation of the [EQuIP Peer Review Panel for Science](http://www.nextgenscience.org/resources/equip-rubric-lessons-units-science%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) . The goal of the panel will be to identify high-quality lessons and units that are designed for the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Lessons and units that are determined to be of high quality will be publicly shared via [www.nextgenscience.org](http://www.nextgenscience.org/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)  so that educators and curriculum developers across all states and districts can benefit from these materials. Interested persons must complete [this online application.](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScsE13yLBN9Q8tYgzhBIS2cQmtxIfWtNTMAicML9-sKELhBRA/viewform?c=0&w=1" \t "_blank) (Application period is Sept. 6 - Sept. 23, 2016)**Opportunities & Resources for Teachers:**   *If you are interested in any of the opportunities listed, please contact the organization that is listed. Send any items that you consider relevant to other science educators to ristanewsletter@gmail.com***Joint Meeting of RI Section of the American Chemical Society & Skyscrapers Inc.****Friday, September 16th****Location:  Seagrave Observatory,  47 Peeptoad Road, North Scituate, RI  02857****7:00 PM**  Light Refreshments**7:30  PM** Presentation: **"How Did the Earth Get its Ocean?"**With Speaker: **Adam Sarafian**, Graduate student , MIT/Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute*This is a very old question.  Two theories exist. Either our water came from inside the Earth, stored during its early formation or the water came from comets or other wet bodies hitting the Earth much later in its history.**Oddly enough, the answers lay in solid rocks and not our liquid water.  The team at the Institute have obtained and extracted evidence from rare samples of ancient meteorites that have fallen to Earth.  Adam and his colleagues have analyzed the isotopic ratios of Hydrogen in these rocks, as this ratio varies in different parts of the solar system.   We will find out how this difficult analysis was conducted and what answers it has uncovered.***9:00 PM** Observing the skies through the 138 year old 8" Alvan Clark Refractor at Seagrave.**(weather permitting)**For more information about Skyscrapers, please visit :   **[www.theskyscrapers.org](http://www.theskyscrapers.org/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)**There is no charge for this meeting.  Families are welcome.RSVP to Kathy Siok,  kathys5@cox.net**Boston Museum of Science Educator Day (Free) is Sunday, September 18th**Teacher Partners (and up to three guests each) are invited to a free day of fun, exploration, and learning. Find out how the Museum can help teachers connect to education standards and enhance students’ educational experiences.September 18 is part of our Wild Weather Weekend this year, offering a variety of activities and presentations focused on one of the most important features of the planet affecting you—weather! Registration is open and is available to Teacher Partners only. Become a [Teacher Partner](http://click.skem1.com/click?c07lk-3m0b2c-4wdmh197" \o "Teacher" \t "_blank)  (free).**FREE Educator Day at Mystic Aquarium 9/18/16**Mystic Aquarium is happy to announce the third annual Educator Appreciation Day on ***Sunday, September 18, 2016***, which also happens to be National Estuaries Day! As a special thank you, Educators\* are invited to bring one guest and enjoy the Aquarium for FREE for the whole day! Join us from 9:00am to 5:00pm. (Note that last admission will be at 4:00pm.)**Exciting Inclusions:**·         Drawing for FREE Mystic Aquarium programming for your class.·         4-D Theater Experience·         10% discount at the Aquarium store·         A coupon for use in the Penguin Café·         Special sea lion show at 11:30am·         Visit our classrooms and meet outreach animals·         Learn more about free resources and our educational programs**Pre-registration:**  Strongly recommended for efficient entry, avoiding long lines. Please find more information and the link to register at[http://www.mysticaquarium.org/fun-learning/educator-resources/](http://www.mysticaquarium.org/fun-learning/educator-resources%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)\*Walk-ins will also be welcomed on the day.\* Educators must show a valid school ID or proof of employment for free entry.**Are You Ready for the Astronomical Event of the Decade?**August 21,2017 will be the first total solar eclipse visible in the US in almost 40 years.  Everyone in the US will see a partial eclipse, but only those people in a narrow 60-mile across band will see the total eclipse.  The website[http://eclipsewise.com/solar/SEgmap/2001-2100/SE2017Aug21Tgmap.html](http://eclipsewise.com/solar/SEgmap/2001-2100/SE2017Aug21Tgmap.html%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)  provides an interactive map where you can get details regarding the eclipse for your location and where you have to go to see the total eclipse.NSTA (National Science Teachers Association) produced an Eclipse Observing Guide[http://www.nsta.org/publications/press/extras/files/solarscience/SolarScienceInsert.pdf](http://www.nsta.org/publications/press/extras/files/solarscience/SolarScienceInsert.pdf%C2%A0%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) that you will find useful. It provides details about the solar eclipse, what causes it, and how to view it safely.The eclipse may seem some time away, but housing along the path of totality is already filling up, so the time is now to beginning planning for this astronomical event of the decade.**RI College Offering Graduate Course on Next Generation Science Standards**Spring, 2017Join colleagues from around RI in a course focused on the Next Generation Science Standards.  [See brochure for details and registration information.](https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B_CKozhXUcpmTDBUejJELWxyV3lWbkIzN3BWeFpoYVFSZjVr" \t "_blank)Contact Dr. Rudolf Kraus for more information at rkraus@ric.edu**Online Courses with the American Museum of Natural History**Check out our fall lineup of online graduate courses from the American Museum of Natural History. Gain exciting new knowledge and powerful classroom resources with 6-week online courses co-taught by Museum scientists and classroom educators. [Seminars on Science](http://www.amnh.org/learn-teach/seminars-on-science/courses%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) courses include: The Brain; Climate Change; Earth: Inside & Out; Evolution; Genetics, Genomics, Genethics; The Ocean System; The Solar System; Space, Time and Motion; Water and more. The next session starts September 19th. Sign up today and receive $50 off your registration fee! Use code SCIENCEMATTERS. For more information about the program, check out Seminars on Science at [amnh.org/learn](http://amnh.org/learn%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank). |
| **Webinar from the American Association of Chemistry Teachers**Advancing Scientific Literacy with Inquiry Lessons Designed around CHEMMATTERS will explore strategies to improve student understanding of scientific concepts through reading ChemMatters. September 20 | 7PM ET | [Register Now](https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1461894544462688772%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)**Grants/Awards/Contests****Pets in the Classroom** grants are offered to Pre-Kindergarten through 8th grade classes only in both public and private schools. [These grants](http://www.petsintheclassroom.org/teachers%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)  are intended to support pets or aquariums in the classroom for the purposes of teaching children to bond with and care for their pets responsibly.**Lowe’s Toolbox for Education** offers grants to schools and parent/teacher groups. School projects should encourage parental involvement and build stronger community ties. This grant cycle focuses on funding requests that have a permanent impact such as facility enhancement, both indoor and outdoor, as well as landscaping/clean up. The next deadline for [application](http://www.toolboxforeducation.com/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) is September 26, 2016.**BirdSleuth School Garden [Grants](http://www.birdsleuth.org/garden-grants%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)** are seeking 10 dedicated teachers within the United States who strive to bring STEM and healthy living from the garden to the classroom. These teachers will receive a $500-$2,000 grant, gardening supplies, and BirdSleuth’s[Habitat Connections](http://www.birdsleuth.org/habitat-connections-details%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank). Funds may be used to support the building or revitalization of school gardens. In addition to food gardens, preference will be given to bird, pollinator, native habitat, rain, and other natural projects.**Toshiba America Foundation** offers grants to K-5 grade teachers to help bring an innovative hands-on math or science project into their classrooms. The deadline for[application](http://www.toshiba.com/taf/k5.jsp%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) is October 1, 2016.**Target Field Trip Grants** are awarded to schools nationwide located within 100 miles of a Target store. [Application](http://www.mmsend53.com/link.cfm?r=2CPoRebKV1f59GgkAl1N1Q%7E%7E&pe=dqG3pZKGneQNnVcC8JSjTxAoiN0Tj0r-ArT9PWKGUZQlHD0qSX5hby0VEr5C6iFCyjTOn22NKK0YRnmF7xJynw%7E%7E" \t "_blank)  deadline is October 1.Schools can compete in the **Recycle-Bowl School Recycling Competition** by tracking and reporting how much recyclable material they collect for a chance to win prizes; teachers will find educational recycling resources and activities on the competition's website. [Registration](http://www.mmsend53.com/link.cfm?r=2CPoRebKV1f59GgkAl1N1Q%7E%7E&pe=5jhqaZV5BdzsAUJGxJYwrUPcXOsHkJovmzekVdRiKlhDgKht7zlFkyVwgX6YjPM6eTWP5f_-ehpVyzwQ8nRFfA%7E%7E" \t "_blank)  deadline: October 14.Fourth grade teachers can request funding through **Donors Choose for Every Kid in a Park** projects, courtesy of the Johnson Ohana Charitable Foundation. Funding can help cover transportation costs and more, to a U.S. national park, forest, wildlife refuge or other national public lands and waters. For more information, click [HERE](https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/every-kid-park-funding-from-johnson-ohana-charitable-foundation-hill%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank).Enter the **Makerspace Classic Kit Giveaway** for a [chance to win](http://www.mmsend53.com/link.cfm?r=2CPoRebKV1f59GgkAl1N1Q%7E%7E&pe=OWxKEzmhLAwW57B5vkjrgKdoHWEjsvtE2oXiyyc2VucQNJBdkh8YYDXtOYhMA3EvwXy0vrtsQ0t_FFEm9Q553A%7E%7E" \t "_blank)  one of 50 prizes, each including a "Makey Makey™" Makerspace Classic Kit for your classroom or library and a $300 gift card for buying makerspace supplies (deadline December 31).Are you a science teacher succeeding in providing exemplary lab instruction with minimal equipment and resources? The **Shell Science Lab Challenge** offers you a chance to compete to win a school science lab makeover, valued at $20,000, by sharing your creative approach. Middle and high school science teachers (grades 6–12) in the United States and Canada are [encouraged to apply](http://www.mmsend53.com/link.cfm?r=2CPoRebKV1f59GgkAl1N1Q%7E%7E&pe=LMZnyv7NGGoRYvGR1w09Fg8O2gMKctuEhZEedh7gorrDM0y_pB-eF-LpzhgkyOdFBwGghSbcSTVv2bMRU3tI0w%7E%7E" \t "_blank) . The deadline for submissions is January 23, 2017.**Student Opportunities****The Fermilab Fall Science Adventures** classes are open for registration on our website.[http://ed.fnal.gov/sciadv](http://ed.fnal.gov/sciadv%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank), including Earth Engineers for grades 6–8, Spiders, Spinners of Silk for grades K–2, What Makes You So Special? for grades 3–5, and Playing with Your Food for grades 1–3**PBS Education’s 50 for 50** is a contest that reinforces the importance of students across the country having a voice in the political process. Students in 6th - 12th grade are invited to write an open letter to the 2016 Presidential Candidates with ideas on what needs to change in government to get more accomplished. Two students (one middle school and one high school) will win a trip to Las Vegas to view the final Presidential debate with the media. Entry deadline is September 21st! [Learn More](http://s2143.t.en25.com/e/er?s=2143&lid=17004&elqTrackId=be284839248f4c5e9a72eeafac353075&elq=41895650a90b47589b6a3ab1e8519952&elqaid=2328&elqat=1" \t "_blank)  **The Future City Competition** is a program developed for students in grades 6-8 to help foster interest in STEM. Student teams, along with an educator and volunteer mentor, research and design a solution to create a future city that addresses this year's citywide sustainability challenge: The Power of Public Space! [Registration](http://futurecity.org/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) closes October 31, 2016.**Registration for eCYBERMISSION**, a web-based STEM competition free to students in grades 6– 9, is now open. [eCYBERMISSION](http://www.mmsend53.com/link.cfm?r=2CPoRebKV1f59GgkAl1N1Q%7E%7E&pe=1bBsA3EBrYFaGLc0fBZqCqI_uE7nIa4PnR8Rj83UqKvUFCF8bohQDtgEfTRRDHYLhcO6H5C88jZA-vBQ_4FLHg%7E%7E" \t "_blank)  challenges students to develop solutions to real-world challenges in their local communities. [Register](http://www.ecybermission.com/Student/Registration%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) your complete team by December 7.Engage students in STEM education with **The Bright Schools Competition**. In this free competition, middle school students (grades 6–8) explore the links among light, sleep, and student health and performance. [Registration is now open](http://www.mmsend53.com/link.cfm?r=2CPoRebKV1f59GgkAl1N1Q%7E%7E&pe=inbp4chIFbQDDmzCWIA21SQR2HORmtDlsTb9nvIQZWtsT2nMmsBUs90sWBz6KHnrc-JRkNspQklyeeQj2cdkLg%7E%7E" \t "_blank) , and projects are due on February 6, 2017.NASA has a citizen science project for K–12 students: **[S'COOL (Students' Cloud Observations OnLine),](http://www.mmsend53.com/link.cfm?r=2CPoRebKV1f59GgkAl1N1Q%7E%7E&pe=yEUe3yDGSX43bnPPJhuGd4dtpUsk49T6dCwlFz06j_G_QvpV9pKgRMQlXfWIPtHl_o8BKgeKoqbqC4ViF2JOBg%7E%7E" \t "_blank)** which involves students worldwide in making and reporting ground truth observations of clouds.The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the National Environmental Education Foundation have a new resource for students to learn how to help solve water quality problems— by becoming a **Watershed Sleuth**! Students can try to build their own aquifers and take an online interactive quiz to find local water wasters. Children, families, K-12 school groups and others can earn a different digital badge for each lesson they complete and show off their watershed knowledge. [Start the challenge today.](https://www.neefusa.org/watershed-sleuth%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)**Classroom Resources**Teach STEM concepts and practices in the outdoors with **PBS LearningMedia's** [Plum Landing](http://www.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/plumlanding/?topic_id=1554" \t "_blank), for grades 1-4. This environmental education project from WGBH invites elementary students to virtually visit ecosystems around the world and then to head outdoors to explore their own. The resources, aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards, immerse students in content topics and science process skills.Visit the [classroom resources](http://www.mmsend53.com/link.cfm?r=2CPoRebKV1f59GgkAl1N1Q%7E%7E&pe=qjAI1EUmZTFLsUNgjkGjFmLcCdlBFKRtyntoHj-YFzAdVFZaglQpJiKRBZpcZdKbFixEyoxsyvrNfrSzQuhGEQ%7E%7E" \t "_blank)  in the [NGSS@NSTA](http://www.mmsend53.com/link.cfm?r=2CPoRebKV1f59GgkAl1N1Q%7E%7E&pe=U4b1fN0lYS3c5QI5gA7gwqHp8uh0J8lhov5XgJnFG76fSNqaXM3-EmU1CdoNkla44ZNeZu2eT5ygVhAVwKGnPw%7E%7E" \t "_blank)  Hub. **NSTA** educator-curators haveselected nearly 400 lesson plans, book chapters, videos, simulations, and more, and suggested specific modifications to improve how they build toward the standards based on the EQuIP rubric. These concrete examples are a great guide for teachers of all grade levels.Discover science brought to life by American beef cattle ranchers, researchers, nutritionists and veterinarians. The **On the Farm** program was designed to [equip you with free lessons, activities](http://www.agfoundation.org/on-the-farm%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) , online learning tools and enriching professional development events.Just getting started with **project-based learning** (PBL)? Explore Edutopia's [curated compilation](http://www.mmsend53.com/link.cfm?r=2CPoRebKV1f59GgkAl1N1Q%7E%7E&pe=1V2knMdPDiRFOc_q12G0dyX-_ha1SQ_cjhipW5BRzMo6dC-ynfp7e1-In4h8d5pkFi6AXL_U1NL3wIYv7wfGBQ%7E%7E" \t "_blank)  of online resources for understanding and beginning to implement PBLIn the lesson plan **Design and Build a Tangle-Free Headphone Holder** students in grades 5-8 follow the engineering design process to build a tool that stores headphones for portable devices, such as an MP3 player, without wires getting tangled. [View Lesson Plan](http://s2143.t.en25.com/e/er?s=2143&lid=17172&elqTrackId=57ba0c95d18a46f3ab024cd501e4b49d&elq=22329ebbba434a269b7ce7b2f08f72af&elqaid=2362&elqat=1" \t "_blank)Show middle level and high school students that scientists have rich personal and work lives with **The Secret Life of Scientists and Engineers**, a [video series](http://www.mmsend53.com/link.cfm?r=2CPoRebKV1f59GgkAl1N1Q%7E%7E&pe=5mkbqds_u84EVbN2Mp862sohaimUs2JWoSgcPchZi2xDrs61fQdLwIi7uHfQz-mEMH95uAzV0DSXWsfswZqZ_A%7E%7E" \t "_blank)  that profiles notable and charismatic scientists.[A Moment of Science](http://www.mmsend53.com/link.cfm?r=2CPoRebKV1f59GgkAl1N1Q%7E%7E&pe=DjD2L19a9mIAHSc_gymtSoHHmJQ_s6WZwdXX_1aDGlrzJ-0E-1fu6ZZaFs2FfOOMh0l5sfmJ6v9AOTvmuYO2WA%7E%7E" \t "_blank) , **Indiana University**'s two-minute daily audio podcast, tells the scientific stories behind some of life's intriguing mysteries and will appeal to middle and high school students.The **Public Broadcasting Service**'s interactive online graphic novel [Tales From the Poisoner's](http://www.mmsend53.com/link.cfm?r=2CPoRebKV1f59GgkAl1N1Q%7E%7E&pe=rbUK8PviaSWIliFk5xYDp7gXLIwGthyHVKYAwjZNVQ0pR3tEwzM-d9eVqys_61MDSBfFPU9CqN3a3U6kHgYsKA%7E%7E" \t "_blank)  [Handbook](http://www.mmsend53.com/link.cfm?r=2CPoRebKV1f59GgkAl1N1Q%7E%7E&pe=rbUK8PviaSWIliFk5xYDp7gXLIwGthyHVKYAwjZNVQ0pR3tEwzM-d9eVqys_61MDSBfFPU9CqN3a3U6kHgYsKA%7E%7E" \t "_blank)  takes high school students along to solve crimes with forensic chemist Alexander Gettler and chief medical examiner Charles Norris. Science-themed stories can capture your students' interest. **Project Learning Tree**'s The Lorax [Activity Booklet](http://www.mmsend53.com/link.cfm?r=2CPoRebKV1f59GgkAl1N1Q%7E%7E&pe=cxcG-M1evupUb4GrDxAJWWQIFl9OWvfSXFrBMYF5GsPmhEfWFAycCZEcEKN41N6Yrt_gPPAzcAOvCSDcjUQWtQ%7E%7E" \t "_blank)  can help preK–8 teachers translate the lessons from Dr. Seuss's popular book *The Lorax* into their teaching. |

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