

# *The Lorax* Teacher Time Activity

**Synopsis:** This is an activity to discuss conservation and wise use of natural resources. It includes reading the story *The Lorax* and different activities where students think about and answer questions related to the Once-ler's decisions, the use of the truffula trees, and how to conserve our environment.

## **Time Considerations:**

Preparation: 5 minutes

Activity: 50 minutes

## **Materials:**

1. The book *Dr. Suess' The Lorax*
2. Large Whiteboard or Chalkboard to write on
3. (if doing activity B) the set of 6 laminated question cards, paper & pencils

## **Preparation:**

1. Gather materials above
2. Have children sitting comfortably and ready to listen to a story
3. Decide which set of questions you would like to use (A or B)

## **Procedure:**

### *Activity A:*

1. Read *Dr. Suess' The Lorax* aloud to the students
2. Ask students to list what they think the major ideas of the story are.
3. Have them think about and answer the following questions:
  - a. Why do you think the Once-ler did what he did?
  - b. What patterns of change in the environment did we observe?
  - c. What were environmental conditions like before the company started making "Thneeds"? What were they like afterward?
  - d. What was the author's message concerning what one person can do to save or destroy the environment?

**Activity B:**

1. Ask students to name things from nature (natural resources) that they use to live. Examples include trees, water, air, minerals, and so on. Then read *Dr. Seuss' The Lorax* aloud to the students.
2. Divide the class into 6 groups. Give each group a card with one of the sets of questions on it. Each group should discuss the questions, write down the answers, and be prepared to share them with the group.
3. After groups have had time for discussion, have each group read their questions and answers to the class. Students can agree, disagree, or add to the answers given by their classmates.

The Six Questions:

How could the Once-ler have managed his company to protect natural resources and not run out of trees to manufacture “Thneeds”? Is it necessary to protect all trees “from axes that hack”?

What did the Once-ler mean by “UNLESS”? What responsibility does he seem to think “someone like you” needs to take? What kinds of things can we do today to make sure that trees will be available for all different purposes in the future?

Compare the Once-ler’s attitude toward the environment at the beginning of the story with his attitude at the end.

The Once-ler explains his actions by saying, “If I didn’t do it, someone else would.” Is this a good excuse for doing what he did?

The Lorax says he speaks for the trees. What does this mean to you? What is the Lorax’s attitude at the end of the story?

What seems to be Dr. Seuss’ purpose in writing this fable? (A fable is a fictional story that teaches a lesson.)

*Adapted from the American Forest Foundation & Project Learning Tree’s  
“PreK-8 Environmental Education Activity Guide.”*