

APES- *The Lorax* and Sustainable Development

Introduction: *The Lorax* is a fictional story about a man whose activities abused the environment and about what he learned from the experience. The story contains many common components found in the environmental problems and issues facing humans around the world.

- 1) In the story of “*The Lorax*”, who does the **Once-ler** represent?
- 2) Who does “*The Lorax*” represent?
- 3) The Once-ler moved across the land in his wagon. He came upon a new region with an important natural resource. *What was this natural resource that the Once-ler found?*
- 4) Humans often appreciate the beauty of the natural world. Experiences such as finding seashells on a beach or seeing a rare bird often cause strong feelings. *Did the Once-ler have feelings about the region and natural resources that he found? Explain.*
- 5) The Once-ler used the land’s natural resources to start a business, which made and sold a product. *What was the product? How was it used by buyers?*
- 6) Pollution not only affects plant and animal species, but it also affects another living species, human beings. *Explain whether the Once-ler’s factory and town was a safe and healthy place to be. Why or why not?*
- 7) The Once-ler’s business failed. Why? What happened to cause the failure of this business? *What happens to the area where the business once was located? Have you seen this in real-life?*
- 8) The Once-ler learned that he had made a serious mistake. What, in your opinion, was his mistake? *What could he have done differently? (How could the Once-ler have managed his company to protect natural resources and not run out of trees)*

9) Explain, in your own words, ***what the Once-ler says must happen for the Lorax and his animals to return.***

10) Can you think of a real-life example of how man-made pollution affected a real ecosystem, its abiotics (*eg: temperature, water quality, air quality, etc.*) or its habitat? ***Explain.***

11) The use of technology requires the use of natural resources. The use of natural resources always has an effect on the environment. ***How did the production of Thneeds affect the Truffula trees, a key biotic natural resource?***

12) Threatened and endangered species are those plant and animal populations threatened by or becoming extinct. Often, this is a result of human activity. ***Can you name the threatened or endangered species in the story and describe why they faced this condition?***

13) Certain animals depended on Truffula trees. Name the animals. ***Explain why these animals needed Truffula trees.***

14) Often, technological production creates, “byproducts”. For example, a byproduct of sawing wood is sawdust. Sometimes the byproducts of technology are unwanted or dangerous and are pollutants in the environment. Sometimes byproducts are useful. **Name two byproducts that resulted from making Thneeds.**

1:

2:

15) What does the Once-ler mean by **UNLESS?** ***Explain.***

16) What does your Truffula Seed represent and what should you do with this knowledge and your seed? ***Be sure to tell why.***

17) Do you think it is possible to achieve sustainable development; to balance quality of life with quality of the environment?

Assignment: Create a **venn diagram** to compare and contrast the stories of Easter Island with “The Lorax”. After creating the venn diagram, **write a 5 paragraph essay** comparing the two stories. *What are the key environmental issues? How are they similar/how do they differ? How do these issues relate to the world today? Make sure to use key examples from both the video and the reading, “Easter’s End” by Jared Diamond. Make sure to develop a clear thesis statement, supporting paragraphs and a clear conclusion.*

The final product should include:

- This worksheet
- Venn diagram
- Essay

	BEFORE	DURING	AFTER
Air Quality			
Water Quality			
Trees			
Animals			
Thneeds #			
Local Economy			
Onceler's Profits			