

The Lorax

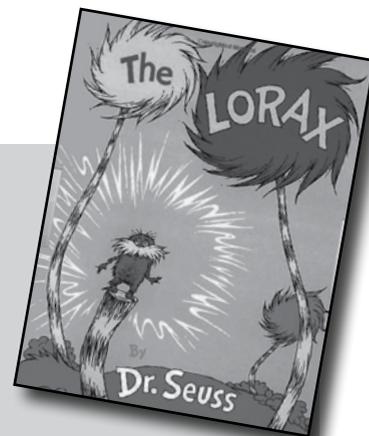
Written and Illustrated by: Dr. Seuss
Published by: Random House

Major Topics:

Environment – Changes, Issues

**Organisms – Animals/Humans, Plants, Basic Needs,
Behaviors, Habitats**

Resources – Natural, Man-Made



National Science Education Content Standards (1996)

Life Science

- The Characteristics of Organisms
- Organisms and Their Environments

Science in Personal and Social Perspectives

- Types of Resources
- Changes in the Environment

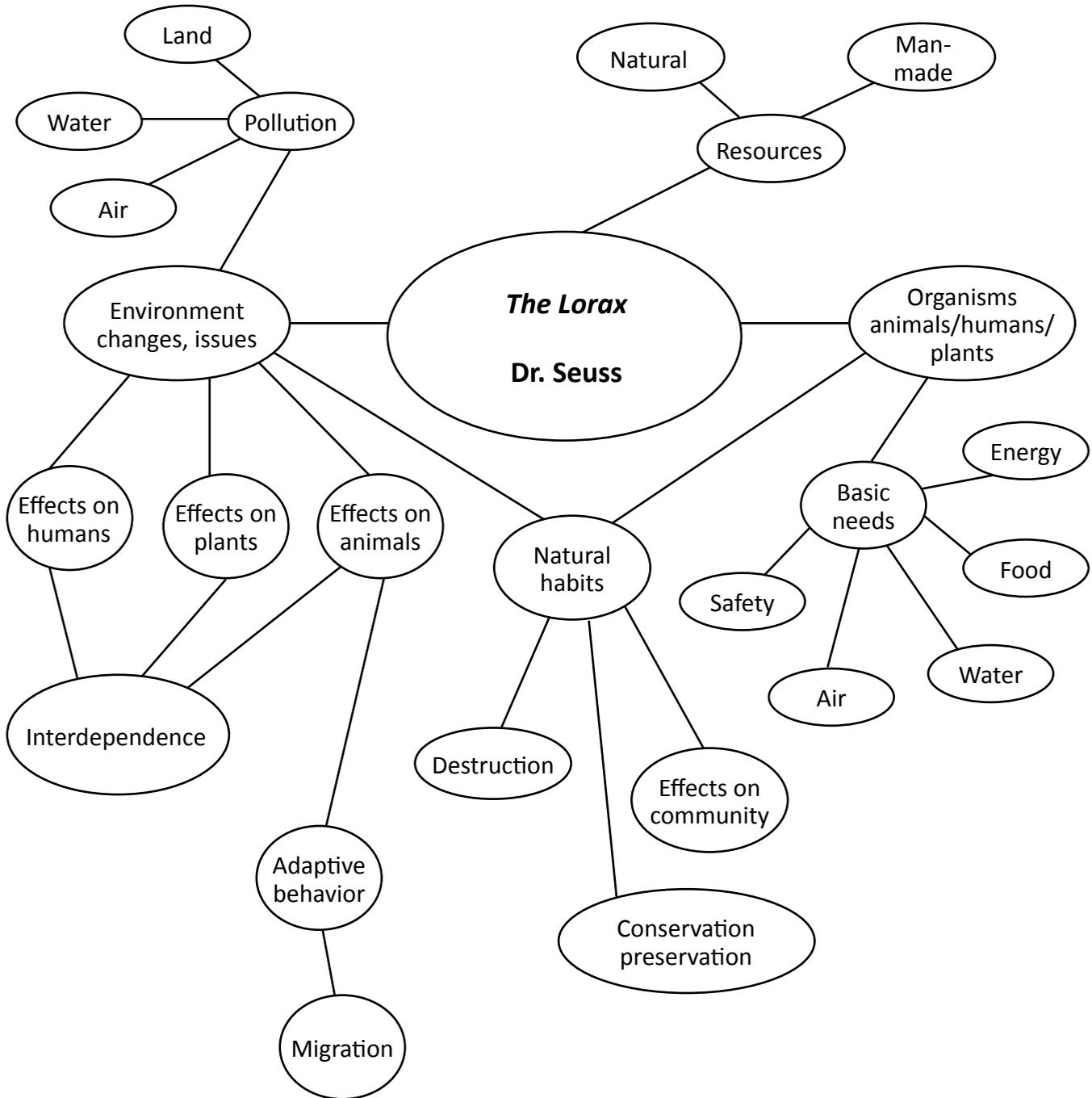
Summary:

In this tale, the Once-ler shares of his past and warns a boy of how pollution and misuse of natural resources can affect the survival of all plants and creatures. A long time ago in a “glorious place,” the Once-ler discovered that he could make a fortune using the tufts of the Truffula Trees by making Thneeds, “a fine-something-that-all-people-need.” Thneeds become something everyone seems to “need” and buy. The Lorax, a creature who speaks for all the living things in the forest, warns the Once-ler that his actions will eventually destroy the environment and cause the creatures to leave. It was not until the last tree had been cut down, all the creatures had been forced from the forest, and his business closed that the Once-ler realized he should have listened to the warning of the Lorax. The Once-ler’s greed and carelessness destroyed the environment and the natural habitat of the creatures. But hope stills remains, as the Once-ler passes the one remaining Truffula Tree seed to the boy and challenges him to rebuild the forest in hope that the Lorax and other creatures will one day return.

**www.tooloftheweek.org
Copyright 2010**

Council for Exceptional Children • www.cec.sped.org
All rights reserved

Science Concept Map



www.tooloftheweek.org
Copyright 2010
 Council for Exceptional Children • www.cec.sped.org
 All rights reserved

Thinking Questions Based on Bloom's Taxonomy: *The Lorax*

- 1. Knowledge:**

What did the Once-ler find in the "glorious place" at the beginning of the story? What did the Once-ler do in the "glorious place" he found? What did the Once-ler make with the tufts of the Truffula Trees? What warnings did the Lorax give the Once-ler?
- 2. Comprehension:**

Why did the Once-ler not heed the warnings of the Lorax? Why were the Truffula Trees valuable to the Once-ler? To the forest? How was the forest destroyed? How were the creatures and forest harmed as the trees were cut down? What happened to the Bar-ba-loots? Swomee-Swans? Humming-Fish? How did the factory affect the forest? Why did the Lorax warn the Once-ler of the effects of his greed and factory? Why did the Once-ler change his perspective by the end of the story?
- 3. Application:**

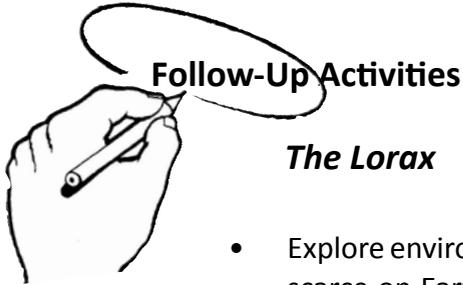
What natural resources help us to meet our basic needs? Why do humans cut down trees? What things come from trees? What are reasons that we need to conserve/preserve trees? If humans used resources unwisely and never replenished, what would happen to the Earth's environment? What kinds of things do you buy that are like "thneeds"? How can you do without them?
- 4. Analysis:**

What happened to the "glorious place" as time passed? Classify the direct and indirect effects of the loss of the Truffula Trees. Compare and contrast the forest before and after the Once-ler. What caused the Lorax to "cough, whiff, sneeze, and croak"? Why did the Once-ler give the child a seed at the end of the story? After the child receives the seed, predict what happens next in the story. What did the seed at the end of the story signify? The Lorax spoke on behalf of what in the story?
- 5. Synthesis:**

Why do you think people bought "thneeds" even though they didn't really need them? Why did the Lorax leave the sign "UNLESS" for the Once-ler? Discuss the importance of trees and plants to the existence of all living things. Pretend you were with the Lorax, how would you convince the Once-ler to save the trees, the creatures, and the forest? How could the Lorax and the Once-ler have worked together to meet everyone's needs?

6. **Evaluation:**

The Once-ler used the trees for a business. Do you agree with him? Why or why not? Did the Lorax do all that it could to save the environment? Is cutting down just one tree doing harm? Explain your thinking.



The Lorax

- Explore environmental issues. Research and investigate resources that are becoming scarce on Earth. Research and investigate animals that are endangered or already extinct. Determine the role of humans in these situations; consider benefits and challenges.
- As cities, towns, and suburbs expand to meet our wants and needs, the natural habitats of animals are destroyed. Pick one situation and create a plan that will allow humans to meet their wants and needs, while at the same time preserving the natural habitat of animals. Share plans with appropriate leadership.
- Look around the classroom, school, and home for things that are made from trees. Research the process. Are there any other natural resources (other than trees) we use regularly?
- Pick any living thing and pretend it is the last one alive of its type. Devise a plan for keeping it from becoming extinct. Create visual and written products.
- Become a Lorax and defend something in the natural world (i.e., an animal, plant, or habitat). Research the cause and present its perspective to a variety of audiences.
- Look at different perspectives of certain environmental issues. Think about the Once-ler and the Lorax; could both sides be “right” at some point? Explain. Publish this analysis in a journal format.
- As a group or as individuals, write a sequel to the story with what the boy does with the seed and its impact on the environment. Perform the sequel to the school community.



- Research other specific interests, curiosities, and basic information about environmental issues, natural resources, and organisms. Provide and encourage the use of multiple sources of information. Have students share their learning in a variety of ways.

**www.tooloftheweek.org
Copyright 2010**

Council for Exceptional Children ♦ www.cec.sped.org
All rights reserved