

AP Environmental Science
Summer Work Assignment

Your summer work is to watch and/or read the Dr. Seuss classic, “The Lorax”. “The Lorax” is a story that deals with environmental issues of a fictional land. These issues can be connected with issues that we have faced in our own environment. The questions below will get you thinking about these problems and views on these problems. Also, for the persons mentioned in the questions provide a brief paragraph about their contribution to the area of environmental science. (Answers should be a minimum of 3 sentences.)

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FSSrYnc1yQs>

Questions

- 1) What is the Lorax? What is his role in the book?
- 2) Teddy Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot had policies, called utilitarian conservation, that stated that forests should be saved “not because they are beautiful or because they shelter wild creatures of the wilderness, but only to provide homes and jobs for people.” With this in mind, compare and contrast the Once-ler’s way of business to Roosevelt and Pinchot’s idea of forestry.
- 3) John Muir, a geologist, author, and first president of the Sierra Club, opposed Pinchot’s ideas. His outlook, biocentric preservation, emphasizes the fundamental right of other organisms to exist and to pursue their own interests. Which character in the Lorax has similar views to Muir and why are these views so controversial today?
- 4) Rachel Carson, considered by many to be the “mother of environmentalism,” added a new set of concerns to the environmental agenda. She awakened the public to the threats of pollution and toxic chemicals. Discuss the different toxins that were produced in the production of the thneed.
- 5) Though the Once-ler polluted the area where he lived, environmentalists have now concluded that the new concern for our planet should be one of global environmentalism, because we are all interconnected and events that occur on the other side of the globe have profound and immediate effects on our lives. List three things that could have global effects in the production of the thneed.

6) Many environmental problems are interconnected and can have compounding effects. After watching “The Lorax,” look at the list below and discuss the implications of how any two or more of the items can cause a worsened environmental effect:

- a) Energy consumption
- b) Human population explosion
- c) Loss of biodiversity
- d) Soil erosion
- e) Food shortages
- f) Waste disposal
- g) Deforestation
- h) Water pollution
- i) Global warming
- j) Political unrest

7) How would the thneed factory be different in a developing country versus a developed one? Discuss issues such as raw material use, waste disposal, energy consumption, and worker rights.

8) In the last part of the Lorax, the Lorax uses the word “unless.” What does that mean and how can you, as an average citizen, make a difference in the environment?

9) Many economists argue that the solution to the Lorax’s dilemma is found in properly defining property rights. What does this mean and how would this solve the problem?