



I speak for
the trees!

the lorax

A look at Biodiversity & Sustainability

Biodiversity is a measure of the variety of species on Earth. Think of it as how many different species are in an ecosystem.

Typically, biodiversity is reduced in extreme conditions (*i.e. too hot, too cold, too dry etc...*).

The greater the biodiversity, the more stable the ecosystem.

Sustainability

Instructions: On a separate sheet of paper, answer the following questions:

1. a) The Once-ler moved across the land in his wagon. He came upon a new region with an important natural resource. (A natural resource is a plant, animal, or mineral that can be used by people.) What was this natural resource the Once-ler found?
b) Name an important natural resource in Acton.
2. The Once-ler used the land's natural resource to start a business which made and sold a product. What was the product? How was it used by buyers?
3. What is the significance of the name "Thneed"? Does the product hold up to its name?
4. "I laughed at the Lorax, You poor stupid guy! / You never can tell what some people will buy."
Do you agree with the Once-ler's statement? Give an example of a real-life "Thneed".
5. a) The use of natural resources often has an effect on the environment. How did the production of thneeds affect the biotic (*i.e.*, living) components of this ecosystem:
Brown Bar-ba-loots Swomee-Swans Humming Fish
b) Name some real-life examples of endangered species suffering from the same circumstances as the fictional animals above.
6. Do you think the construction of the neighborhood you live in had a negative effect upon the ecosystem?
7. Did the Once-ler try to prevent or stop the environmental effects of producing thneeds? Explain.
8. Explain how the Once-ler's business failed. How could he have sustained his business?

9. Many human economic activities are planned for the short-term, perhaps from several to twenty or thirty years. Provide an example of a short-term and a long-term business. Which do you think is more beneficial?
10. In the end, the Lorax lifted himself away. Good decision? Bad decision?
11. Before leaving, the Lorax left a final message, "UNLESS". What do you think he meant by it?
12. Note the Once-ler's demeanor at the beginning of the story:

*"and sometimes he speaks
and tells how the Lorax was lifted away.
He'll tell you, perhaps...
if you're willing to pay."*

Do you think the Once-ler has learnt his lesson?

13. Look at the word "Sustainability". Write your own definition of the word in the space provided.

