AWESOME stories

WHAT CAN WE DO?

0. WHAT CAN WE DO? - Story Preface

1. MADAGASCAR and the TREE of LIFE

2. BRAZIL and the ATLANTIC FOREST

3. MOUNTAIN FORESTS of SOUTHWESTERN CHINA

4. RAIN FORESTS of INDONESIA

5. AMERICAN DEFORESTATION

6. WHAT CAN WE DO?

7. THE LORAX TAKES A TRIP



When we lose rainforests, we lose the flora and fauna which live in the forests. This image, by James Hamilton, depicts a jigsaw puzzle of “Rainforest Parrots.” Image online via Amazon.

The Lorax's still worried
But he's no longer blue;
He went searching for helpers
He's just thrilled he found you!

When we use trees to make things, we produce another consequence beyond losing the trees. We create waste.

Whenever we make *anything*, we usually create waste. Dr. Seuss called that waste "Gluppity Glup" and "Schloppity-Schlopp." By whatever name we call it, waste can be a problem if it isn't properly managed.

Today we sometimes use tree-barren land to manage our waste. After the trees are chopped down - and we don't use the land for growing crops, raising cattle or building towns - it becomes available to receive our junk.

Today we sometimes call junk yards by a different name which sounds a little better. We call them land fills.

Land fills are places where the land is scooped-out, then it is filled with the things no one wants anymore.

If The Lorax could spend a bit of time with us, he'd recognize that not all the trees are cut down because people are greedy. Many times trees are cut down so people can live their lives, work their jobs and support their families.

But The Lorax would probably tell us something else.

He'd say that we have to be careful about how we use the trees in all our countries. He'd ask:

- Why chop down a tree, which takes years and years to grow, just to make tooth picks or chop sticks which we throw away after a single use?

- Why destroy large areas of trees without a plan to replace them?

- Why take the trees - and the forests, and the birds, and the fish and the plants - for granted?

Why not treat them like the treasures they are?

The Lorax would also tell us something else. He'd let us know how many rainforest trees are being chopped-down every day:

The world's rainforests are currently disappearing at a rate of 6000 acres every hour.

To help us understand what 6,000 acres really means, The Lorax would remind us that it takes 6,000 acres to build 4,000 football fields. So ... the world is losing the equivalent - in rainforest trees - of 4,000 football fields every hour.

That's a lot of trees we're losing!

When we think about all the trees we're losing, we also have to think about the people who live in the rainforests. About 50,000,000 men, women and children live in the world's rainforests. They are native to these areas, just like the animals and plants which live and grow there.

That's a lot of people to think about!

After he talked with us, and we answered his questions, The Lorax would probably not ask us to totally change our own lives. But he most certainly would urge us to develop better habits.

And ... if we have to cut down more trees, he'd probably warn us to do it wisely and sparingly.

If The Lorax gave us that warning, do you think he'd be right?

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:
http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/WHAT-CAN-WE-DO-The-Lorax

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:
http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/WHAT-CAN-WE-DO-The-Lorax

Questions 2 Ponder

Are We Willing to Give-up Gadgets to Avoid Waste Disposal?

Waste generation occurs every day, even at home. What is the best way to dispose-of those wastes?

If you had to give-up your most-treasured item, to help a corporation avoid producing waste when that special item was made, would you do it? Why, or why not?

If you gave-up your special item, to help a business avoid waste, that might cause the business' employees to lose their jobs (because people can no longer buy the products the workers once made). How do we determine which is better - to make the products (and keep the jobs) or to stop making waste (and lose the jobs)?

Is there a middle ground - to keep making the products but find a better way to dispose-of the waste? How would we make that decision? Can we make such a decision without government regulations?

Media Stream



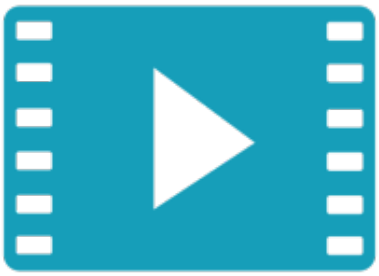
Colorful Birds of a Rainforest

When we lose rainforests, we lose the flora and fauna which live in the forests. When we preserve rainforests, we preserve the habitat of those flora and fauna. This image, by James Hamilton, depicts the box-cover of a jigsaw puzzle of "Rainforest Parrots."

Click on the image for a better view.

Joseph & James Company; copyright Joseph & James Company, all rights reserved.
Image online via Amazon provided here as fair use for educational purposes.

View this asset at:
http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Colorful-Birds-of-a-Rainforest

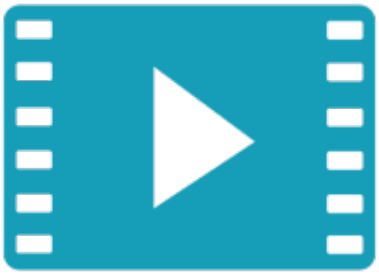


People of the Rainforest

Clip from the BBC's "Human Planet" series - Episode 4, "Jungles" - online via the BBCKnowledge Channel at YouTube. Copyright, BBC, all rights reserved. Clip provided here as fair use for educational purposes.

Series Producer: Dale Templar
Narrator: John Hurt
Producer: Tom Hugh-Jones

View this asset at:
http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/People-of-the-Rainforest



The Lorax - Trailer

Trailer for "The Lorax," a film by Illumination Entertainment, distributed by Universal Pictures. Copyright, Illumination Entertainment, all rights reserved. Clip provided here as fair use for educational purposes.
View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/The-Lorax-Trailer

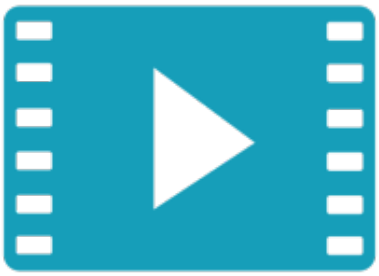
The Lorax - 1972 Animation

Part 1 of "The Lorax," a 1972 animated version of Dr. Seuss' book. Copyright, DePatie-Freleng Enterprises, all rights reserved. Clip provided here as fair use for educational purposes.
Production credits, as follows:

Directed by:
Hawley Pratt

Featuring the Voices of:

Eddie Albert
Bob Holt
Athena Loorde
Helen Carraher
Thurl Ravenscroft (singing voice, uncredited)



Narrated by:
Eddie Albert

Executive producer:
David H. DePatie

Producer:
Friz Freleng

Characters created by Dr. Seuss

Production company:
DePatie-Freleng Enterprises

Original broadcast, CBS:
February 14, 1972
View this asset at:
http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/The-Lorax-1972-Animation

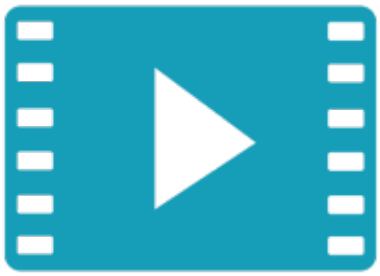
The Lorax - 1972 Animation, Part 2

Part 2 of "The Lorax," a 1972 animated version of Dr. Seuss' book. Copyright, DePatie-Freleng Enterprises, all rights reserved. Clip provided here as fair use for educational purposes.
Production credits, as follows:

Directed by:
Hawley Pratt

Featuring the Voices of:

Eddie Albert
Bob Holt
Athena Loorde
Helen Carraher
Thurl Ravenscroft (singing voice, uncredited)



Narrated by:
Eddie Albert

Executive producer:
David H. DePatie

Producer:
Friz Freleng

Characters created by Dr. Seuss

Production company:
DePatie-Freleng Enterprises

Original broadcast, CBS:
February 14, 1972
View this asset at:
http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/The-Lorax-1972-Animation-Part-2