Name:

The Lorax vs. Truax

AP Environmental Science

The LORAX is a fictional story about a man who abused the environment and about what he learned. The story begins in the most run-down part of a dull, gray town. A small boy asks the Once-ler to share the secret of the Lorax and how he was “taken away.” Thus, the story is told as a “flashback” as the Once-ler talks about the Lorax and past events.

1. In the Lorax, describe the environment the Once-ler encountered when he first came to “this glorious place.” Be sure to identify at least 4 components of the environment.
2. Remember a system is any set of interacting components that influence one another by exchanging energy or materials. Identify at least 3 systems, 2 ecosystems, and 1 system of any other kind, in The Lorax and explain how the energy or materials is being exchanged and what, if any, outside factors affect the system.
3. Describe the human impacts on each ecosystem you identified in question 3. Be specific.
4. Identify each character as being an environmentalist or not. Explain your answer.
   1. The Lorax
   2. The Once-ler
   3. The boy in the story
   4. The Truax
   5. The Guardbark
5. A “thneed” is defined as a fine thing that everyone thinks they need. What are examples of “thneeds”?
6. We can agree, based on the outcome of The Lorax, that sustainable practices were not used by the Once-ler. Thinking about the human effects he had on the environment, identify sustainable practices he could have employed to maintain both the environment and his business. (How could the “thneeds” have been made without destroying all of the truffula trees?)
7. Looking at the different ecosystems in The Lorax, identify the ecosystem services provided by each.
8. The Lorax seemed to show up when environmental indicators started showing drastic changes in the environment. Identify the environmental indicators in the story and explain what changes were happening in the environment at the time.
9. What environmental conflict is illustrated by the confrontation between the Lorax and the Once-ler? Compare this to actual environmental conflicts that occur every day.
10. Specifically identify how the following were affected:
    1. Bar-ba loots:
    2. Swamee-swan:
    3. Humming Fish:
11. How did the appearance of the sky compare upon the arrival of the Thneed Workers as to the departure of the workers at the close of the factory?
12. What was the point of the sign “Unless” left by the Lorax?
13. Did the Once-ler redeem himself-be specific?
14. Why did Dr. Seuss write this book?
15. In the Truax, describe the forest where the Truax the logger was working. What are some of the components of the environment? Which are biotic and which are abiotic?
16. Describe the ecosystem services provided by the forest and the trees in the Truax.
17. What sustainable practices does the Truax employ in the story?
18. Compare the biodiversity of the ecosystems in the Lorax to the forest in the Truax. How does The Truax explain the effects of logging on biodiversity?
19. Explain the Traux’s belief about endangered species vs. needs.
20. Compare and contrast the two stories. What were these stories trying to teach?
21. The Truax was written after The Lorax. Why do you think this book was written?