

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Period: \_\_\_\_\_

### **"The Lorax"**

One of America's favorite storytellers, Dr. Seuss, wrote and illustrated a modern fable on one of the most important issues of our times, the environment. As you watch the cartoon version of his book respond to the following questions:

1. What was the role that Dr. Seuss gave to the Lorax and to the Once-ler?
2. Who do you identify with and why?
3. A "thneed" is defined as a fine thing that everyone thinks they need. What are examples of "thneeds"?
4. How could the "thneeds" have been made without destroying all of the truffula trees?
5. What environmental conflict is illustrated by the confrontation between the lorax and the once-ler? Compare this to actual environmental conflicts that occur everyday.
6. Give three examples of environmental problems created by the actions of the once-ler.
7. Who are the Swoomee Swans, Barbaloots, and Humming Fish? What was their fate?
8. Why do you think Dr. Seuss wrote the Lorax?
9. What is the "unless reality"?

## The Greenhouse effect

1. How do sunlight, surface, and atmosphere interact to control the Earth's temperature?
2. What is the importance of the greenhouse effect to life on Earth?
3. What is a greenhouse gas? Name them.
4. How has developing civilization affected the Earth's atmosphere?
5. What is global warming?
6. Is there cause for concern about the increased levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere?
7. Tell several ways to decrease the levels of greenhouse gases. What are the possible consequences of these actions?

## Fossil fuels

1. It is well established that underground reserves of petroleum are dwindling exponentially. Explain exactly why we can't simply rest our hopes on new petroleum being formed somewhere on the planet.
2. It is unlikely that we will find coal, petroleum, and natural gas on nearby planets. Explain why this is true.
3. Explain the differences between renewable energy resources and nonrenewable ones. How does each tie into the carbon cycle?
4. The greenhouse effect and acid rain are current topics of concern. Why are these problems global in scope? How are the two phenomena linked to fossil fuels? What can society do to lessen the threat posed by each? In the far distant future both problems will definitely cease to exist. Explain why this is true.
5. If alternative energy sources such as solar, nuclear, wind, geothermal, and biomass can create energy without the problems created by burning fossil fuels, why are they not being used more right now? What are the pros and cons of each?
6. The United States, western Europe, Russia, and China all have large reserves of coal that were formed approximately 250 million years ago. Why are these large deposits concentrated mainly within the Northern Hemisphere?