

Teaching Procedures

1. Ask students to brainstorm with a partner why trees are important for our lives (e.g., building houses, furniture, kitchen utensils, firewood, paper; oxygen, soil protection, and a place for animals to live). Compile a list of reasons on the board. Ask students to then discuss with their partners what would happen if these trees were no longer available. Ask a few pairs to share their thoughts.
2. Tell students that you will read Dr. Seuss' *The Lorax* and that while you read they should pay close attention to the environmental problems that arise. After the story, brainstorm environmental problems that were found in the book. Some of these problems could include pollution, animals having to move to a new home, disappearance of trees, etc. As a class, identify some of the causes of the problems in the book.
3. Tell students that they will now use Google Earth to see if our world has problems that are similar to those mentioned in *The Lorax*. As the students go through the activity, they should keep in mind that the issues they see (such as pollution or deforestation) are continuing today.
4. Pass out activity instructions for students. Have them follow the instructions and complete the prompts as they go along.
5. At the end of the activity, use the follow-up questions to have a class discussion about the environmental issues in our world today. Be sure to focus on the future and what we can do to improve our earth.

Follow-up questions:

- What environmental changes did you notice while using the layers in Google Earth? What environmental differences are there between the past and the present?
- What different organizations did you find? What are the goals of some of these organizations?
- What is wrong with the pollution and deforestation of our world? What are the consequences of some of our actions?
- How can we balance the need for land and the need for wood from trees with the importance of taking care of the environment?
- What are some wise decisions that we can make today that will have a

positive impact on our future?

- Whose responsibility is it to take care of our planet? How do we make this happen?
- How can people become aware of the problems we have regarding pollution and climate change?

6. Optional: a class debate regarding the importance of industrialization and the importance of taking care of the environment could follow.

Assessment:

Objectives will be assessed when reviewing students' completed assignments and during class discussion.