

Refer to both the text and pictures in The LORAX as you respond to the following questions. Record your answers on a large chart paper to share with the whole group.

The Once-ler's Story: The Beginning

1. 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?

Name an important natural resource in your region.

2. The Once-ler, like other humans in business, organized a system to manufacture and distribute his product. Listed below are several parts of a manufacturing process. Describe if and how each of the following was used in the story.

a. raw materials? _____

b. product? _____

c. labor (workers)? _____

d. energy? _____

e. shipping, transportation? _____

3. Businessmen, like the Once-ler, sometimes try to make more money by increasing the number of products they can sell utilizing technology. People use machines to work faster, more easily, and more accurately. Sometimes machines are used to do work humans cannot do. X-ray machines, for example, allow doctors to "see" inside the human body. These are examples of "technology".

Give an example of technology YOU use at home and another YOU use at school.

4. What technology did the Once-ler invent to increase the production of thneeds? What are several other examples of technology presented in the story?

5. The use of technology requires the use of natural resources. The use of natural resources often has an effect on the environment. How did the production of thneeds affect a key biotic (i.e., living) natural resource, truffula trees?

6. Threatened and endangered species are those plant and animal populations facing extinction. Often, this is a result of human activity. Can you name several threatened or endangered species and describe why they face this condition?

7. Certain animals depended on truffula trees. Name the animals. Explain why these animals needed truffula trees.

8. Interdependence is an important characteristic of the environment. Living things depend on certain abiotic (non-living) and biotic (living) factors. What examples can you think of where human activities have altered the interdependence in natural systems?