

## Environmental Health

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### OBJECTIVES/RATIONALE

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Environmental pollution has an effect on the world population. In order to understand personal responsibility in environmental health, the student will evaluate a variety of related environmental factors.

TEKS Health ed 115:32 (b)(10)(A-C)

TAKS ELA 1, 2, 4  
Social Studies 1, 2, 3, 5  
Science 2, 3

Duration 2 (1 ½ hour) classes

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### KEY POINTS

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- I. Air, Water, and Land Pollution. These types of pollution are caused by photochemical smog, acid rain, depletion of the ozone layer, untreated sewage, solid garbage, toxic industrial wastes, and oil spills.
- II. Increased population causes changes in the land.
  - a. deforestation – destruction of forests
  - b. desertification – conversion of grasslands, rain fed cropland, and irrigated cropland to desert like conditions
  - c. solid wastes – overabundance
- III. Technology increased are causing environmental changes.
- IV. Reducing wastes
  - a. conservation
  - b. precycling / recycling

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### ACTIVITIES

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***Teacher Note:***

*Check out the book or the video, Dr. Seuss: The Lorax from your campus library or Regional Education Center. Write out the character names on pieces of paper and have students “draw” the character they will be following. Read the book or show the video and have students fill out the worksheet. The worksheet and activity may be done individually or in small groups of like characters. Pass out the information sheet on Current Environmental Issues.*

*List of Characters and their Environmental Issue:*

- i. Lorax – Biological Diversity*
- ii. Oncler – Developmental and Environmental*
- iii. Barbaloots – Tropical Forests*
- iv. Swamee-Swans – Air, Atmosphere, Climate, Hazardous Substances*
- v. Humming Fish – Water, Ocean and Coastal, Freshwater)*

- I. Complete **The Lorax Activity**.

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### **MATERIALS NEEDED**

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Lorax Worksheet  
Current Environmental Issues  
Dr. Seuss The Lorax video and/or book

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### **ASSESSMENT**

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Successful completion of the Lorax activity.

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### **ACCOMMODATIONS**

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For reinforcement, the student will list environmental pollution problems related to health.

For enrichment, the student will research environmental concerns in region and develop a solution.

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### **REFLECTIONS**

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# The Lorax

1. Your Name \_\_\_\_\_
2. Your class period \_\_\_\_\_
3. Your character's name \_\_\_\_\_
4. The environmental issue that most directly affects your character \_\_\_\_\_
5. In the story, what caused the problem with your character and its habitat? \_\_\_\_\_
6. List 2 steps that could have been taken to prevent the problem with your character and its environmental issue.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. List 3 steps that could have been taken to prevent the problem.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What is your personal opinion about this issue?

# Current Environmental Issues

Population Growth – excessive population growth leads to the deterioration of lands and drains resources, air and water

Developmental and Environmental – increased development destroys land, air and water

Food and Agriculture – destruction of usable cropland and excessive use of chemicals

Biological Diversity – habitats of many types of plants and animals will be destroyed as population and development increase

Tropical Forests – soil erosion, flooding, shortages of fuel and wood, timber, loss of food and displacement of people

Ocean and Coastal Resources – over fishing, pollution from oil spills and waste dumping

Fresh Water – pollution from municipal, industrial, and chemical wastes

Energy – use is greater than supply

Air, Atmosphere, Climate – chemicals damage the ozone, warming the earth's climate

Hazardous Substances – plastics, pesticides, and radioactive wastes contribute to health problems

Solid Wastes – insufficient space to dispose of wastes