

The Lorax

Name _____

Environmental Law Review

Period _____

The Lorax is a children's book written by Dr. Seuss and first published in 1971.^[1] It chronicles the plight of the environment and the Lorax, who speaks for the trees against the greedy Once-ler. As in most Dr. Seuss works, most of the creatures mentioned are original to the book. (Wikipedia)



The Lorax was written during the beginning of the 3rd wave of environmental policy in which people were becoming aware of pollution and wanted change. This book, along with the work of countless activists and policy-makers helped to pass several laws in the 1960s, 70s and 80s to mitigate the environmental degradation that had occurred and to prevent further degradation.

Directions: Use the laws below to answer the following questions

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

National Forest Management Act

Antiquities Act

Endangered Species Act

Resources Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)

Clean Air Act

Clean Water Act

CERCLA (Superfund)

Wilderness Act

National Park Service Organic Act

Identify the law that would now prevent or clean up the environmental degradation that occurred in *The Lorax*:

1. Which law (passed in 1976) would have prevented the wholesale destruction of the Truffula forests and mandates that every national forest draw up plans for renewable resource management including maximum sustainable yield?
2. Which law (first passed in 1977) would now prevent the Onceler and his factories from polluting rivers and lakes without a permit?
3. Which law would now prevent the Onceler and his factories from polluting the air in massive quantities by setting standards for air quality and imposing limits on emissions?
4. Which law would now prevent garbage (solid waste) from being dumped and provides guidelines for the disposal of solid and hazardous waste for the Onceler and his factories? It also requires hazardous waste to be tracked from "Cradle to Grave"

5. If the government wanted to build a road for people to travel to Thneedville, which law would require an EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) for that project?

6. Thneedville and its factories were built before these laws were passed and would now be considered hazardous waste sites. Which law provides a funded program to clean up hazardous waste from the nation's worst polluted sites?

If the Lorax could have worked with others to petition congress to save the Truffula forest...

7. Which law would have preserved the entire Truffula forest from development of any kind?

8. Which law would have preserved the Truffula forest, but allowed camping, hiking, roads and hotels?

9. Which law would have allowed the President to preserve the Truffula forest as a National Monument if Congress wouldn't establish it as a National Park?

10. Which law would have attempted to prevent the extirpation or extinction of the Brown Bar-ba-loots, Swomee Swans, and Humming Fish?