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Lesson Plan #5: To be taught on 12/05/02 and 12/12/02 for the third grade classes

**Enduring Understanding:** Being a good citizen of our communities and the earth means trying to use natural resources well without destroying whole plant and animal communities or polluting the air, water and soil.

**Lesson Focus:** Companies should think about their impact on the earth in creating their product. Reducing some of the unnecessary stuff we buy is one way to limit the human impact on the earth.

**Maine State Learning Result:**

**ECONOMICS**

**A. PERSONAL AND CONSUMER ECONOMICS**

Students will understand that economic decisions are based on the availability of resources and the costs and benefits of choices. Students will be able to:

**ELEMENTARY GRADES 3-4**

2. Identify a situation in which a personal decision is made about the use of scarce resources.

**Questions:**

1. a. Why do the Brown Bar-ba-loots have to leave? – They are hungry. The Once-ler cut down the trees so there is not enough fruit for the Bar-ba-loots to eat.
   
   b. Why do the Swomee-Swans have to leave? – They cannot sing/breathe because the factory making Thneeds pollutes the air and produces smog.
   
   c. Why do the Humming-Fish have to leave? – They cannot hum/breathe because the Thneed factory polluted the water with gum.

2. a. Why does the Once-ler cut down the Truffula Trees?
   
   b. Why does the Once-ler make Thneeds? (short-term profit)
   
   c. Would you want a Thneed? Do people really need Thneeds? (supply and demand)
   
   d. If everyone really did need a Thneed, how could the Once-ler have prevented the damage he did to the local environment? (sustainability – the use of resources in a manner in which the resource will be preserved for future generations)

3. a. What do you think the Lorax meant by the word, “unless”?
   
   The Once-ler thinks it means: “UNLESS – someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It’s not.”
   
   b. Do you think that the kid in the book can all alone fix the problems that the Once-ler created? Do you think that the kid should have to fix problems that she did not create?
   
   c. What can an individual child do to help prevent an ecological problem like this from occurring? (Be aware of what we buy/consume and think about how the creation of it may have effected the earth. Sometimes make the decision to not buy something you don’t need.)
Evaluation: Following the reading of the book, *The Lorax*, by Dr. Seuss, the teacher and students will informally discuss the environmental issues and issues of responsibility for the problems. The class divided into groups of four students in each group will brainstorm and create a skit regarding the protection of natural resources to perform for the class.

Method:
1. Teacher Input (20 minutes): The teacher will announce that this is her last lesson with the students before the winter holidays. The teacher will remind the students that they can take some of the ideas from the last lesson to create reused gifts for their family and friends. The teacher will say that last week’s lesson has to do with the idea of reduction of waste and this week’s lesson has the same theme, among others. The teacher will proceed to read the book, *The Lorax*.

2. Guided Practice (10-15 minutes): The teacher will lead an informal discussion with the students about the book, talking about the many questions of the day.

3. Independent Practice (20 minutes total): The teacher will divide the class into groups of four students each and explain to the class that it is now their turn to make up a short scene about what they can do to protect natural resources for the plants and animals that live in their community. The teacher will explain that the students have five minutes to brainstorm and rehearse their skit before presenting it to the class and watching other groups present their skits.

Closure (5 minutes): The teacher and students will discuss the enduring understanding of the day: Being a good citizen of our communities and the earth means trying to produce as little waste as we can, including air and water pollution from the production of the products we buy. Reducing waste by not purchasing things we don’t need is a good way for all of us individuals to save natural resources from pollution or destruction. For companies that create things, using natural resources is a sustainable manner is another good solution to the issues faced in *The Lorax*.

Materials: The book *The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss, flip board and marker

Words to Define: Natural resources, smog, sustainability, product, reduce