

Name _____



Protecting Nature

Deep in a land once filled with Truffula Trees, the Lorax stood tall, speaking for the trees. He had watched as the Once-ler arrived, full of excitement and big ideas. The Once-ler saw the soft, colorful Truffula Trees and realized their tufts could make something useful—a Thneed! So, he chopped down one tree and created a Thneed, which quickly became popular. Seeing the opportunity for more wealth, the Once-ler built a factory, hired workers, and cut down even more trees.

The Lorax warned the Once-ler about the damage he was causing. “These trees take years to grow, and you are chopping them down too fast! The Bar-ba-loots, who once played under their shade, now have no food. The Swomee-Swans can’t sing because of the factory’s smoke. The Humming-Fish must leave because the water is too polluted.”

But the Once-ler ignored the Lorax’s pleas. He kept making more Thneeds and cutting more trees until, one day, the last Truffula Tree fell. The land became empty, the animals had left, and the Once-ler’s factory shut down. With no more trees, there were no more Thneeds to sell.

Before disappearing, the Lorax left a small pile of rocks with one word carved into them: UNLESS. The Once-ler, now older and regretful, finally understood. Unless someone cares enough to protect nature, things will never get better.

He passed the last Truffula seed to a young child, hoping they would plant it, grow more trees, and bring back the beauty that was lost. The story of the Once-ler and the Lorax teaches us an important lesson: If we don’t take care of the environment, we could lose it forever. But, if we choose to act responsibly, we can help restore what has been damaged.