



The Lorax Game

A fitness or dribbling skill game

Background: *The Lorax* is the classic Dr. Seuss children's book which has a strong ecological theme designed to teach the reader that they have an impact on the environment. In it the Onceler learns that protecting trees is important and that he should have listened to the Lorax before it was too late.

I strongly recommend reading the story with your children either in class, by making a special appearance in their classroom, or by having the classroom teacher read the book before the game is played.

Equipment: This game uses cones. 3-5 per player for best results. It also uses Basketballs when played as a dribbling skill game.

The Game: The Game is actually the classic game of Builders & Bulldozers. One team (The Onceler's Team) attempts to knock all the cones down. The other team (The Lorax's Team) picks the cones back up. To represent that it is more difficult to grow a tree than to chop it down the students who are on the Lorax's Team must perform an exercise and shout "GAZZUMP" before they may pick up the cone. (In the story The Lorax shouts GAZZUMP when he first appears popping out of the stump of a chopped down Truffula Tree)

Each round starts with the teacher speaking the phrase: "Everyone Needs A Thneed!" and Each round ends with the teacher speaking the phrase: "I am the Lorax, I speak for the trees, sit crisscross with your hands on your knees."

At this time you will count the cones standing/fallen and determine the winner of the round and discuss the outcomes. Play the first two rounds without any discussion. Simply encourage the children to play hard. Between the second and third rounds discuss what happens when the trees start vanishing in the book (discuss what happens to the the Brown Barbaloots, the Humming Fish, and the Swommy Swans).

Give the players a choice of their team in the third round but encourage them to think about the environment. The idea is to have all of the cones standing in the end.

The players may need a fourth or fifth time to catch on to the idea that trees are important. Reinforce the moments in the story where the animals have to go for various reasons.

Variations: When playing the game for dribbling skills make sure that the players continue to dribble when knocking down or picking up cones. You can have the Lorax's team use their non dominant hand to increase difficulty.



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Common Core Standards Met:

Kindergarten	First Grade	Second Grade
ELA.K.RF.2.a ELA.K.SL.2 ELA.K.RI.1 ELA.K.RL.1 ELA.K.RL.2	ELA.1.RL.1 ELA.1.RL.2 ELA.1.RL.3 ELA.1.RL.4 ELA.1.RI.3 ELA.1.SL.2	ELA.2.RL.2 ELA.2.RL1 ELA.2.RI.1 ELA.2.RI.8 ELA.2.SL.2

Kindergarten:

- ELA.K.RF.2:** Demonstrate understanding of spoken words, syllables and sounds (phonemes)
 a. Recognize and produce rhyming words
- ELA.K.SL.2:** Confirm understanding of a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media by asking and answering questions about key details and requesting clarification if something is not understood
- ELA.K.RL.1:** With prompting and support, ask and answer questions about key details in a text.
- ELA.K.RL.2:** With prompting and support, retell familiar stories, including key details.

First Grade:

- ELA.1.RL.1:** Ask and answer questions about key details in a text.
- ELA.1.RL.2:** Retell stories, including key details, and demonstrate understanding of their central message or lesson.
- ELA.1.RL.3:** Describe characters, settings, and major events in a story, using key details.
- ELA.1.RL.4:** Identify words and phrases in stories or poems that suggest feelings or appeal to the senses.
- ELA.1.RI.3:** Describe the connection between two individuals, events, ideas, or pieces of information in a text.
- ELA.1.SL.2:** Ask and answer questions about key details in a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media.

Second Grade

- ELA.2.RL2:** Recount stories, including fables and folktales from diverse cultures, and determine their central message, lesson, or moral.
- ELA.2.RI.1:** Ask and answer such questions as *who*, *what*, *where*, *when*, *why*, and *how* to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.
- ELA.2.RI.8:** Describe how reasons support specific points the author makes in a text.
- ELA.2.SL.2:** Recount or describe key ideas or details from a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media.

Other Notes: Depending on how you discuss the book with the students more content standards can be met. Keep a copy of the book handy and refer to the pictures and text when talking to the students. Also have the students take note of the illustrations and what happens to the color as more trees are removed from the story. All students should understand the moral of the story, and all students should be able to talk about the facts and details of the story. The older your students, the more in-depth you can get into the structure of the text and the depth of the theme.