

A.P.E.S. SUMMER ASSIGNMENT 2020

The essay “The Tragedy of the Commons”, written by Garrett Hardin in 1968, is often discussed in AP Environmental Science classes. In fact, questions which test your understanding of this article may show up on the AP Environmental Science exam. The Lorax was written by Dr. Seuss and made into a video in 1972. (I watched the original many times as a kid!). It relates rather well to concepts presented in Hardin’s essay.

Read the article during the summer. You may highlight it or write on it as it is yours to keep. Then watch the 1972 Lorax (many available links on YouTube but try this one:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FSSrYnc1yQs>). Compose thoughtful and thorough responses to the prompts below and submit your electronic document to me via Google docs by **Monday, Aug. 31, 2020**. My email is alison.beres-nork@amityschools.org .

1. The Lorax is a good illustration of the Tragedy of the Commons as written by Garrett Hardin. Explain the idea behind that essay, and relate it to the television special. What are the commons in the world of the Lorax?
2. What is the Law of Unintended Consequences? Give one example of an unintended consequence that arose from clear-cutting the Truffula trees.
3. This story is a great example of unsustainability. What could the Once-ler have done differently with the Truffula forest that would have been more sustainable?
4. Describe an example of a resource that the human population is currently using at an unsustainable rate. What is, or could be, an unintended consequence of this?