

Island Fox Outreach

Lesson Concept	Human actions both positively and negatively effect the environment.
Link	In the last lesson, students learned ecosystems change due to human impact and natural disturbances. In this lesson, students learn that the actions of humans upon the environment can have both a positive and negative consequences.
Time	30 minutes + presentation time
Materials	<u>Whole Class</u> <i>Lorax</i> by Dr. Seuss <u>Group (4)</u> 4 Discussion prompts based on presentation <u>Individual</u> 3x5 exit card
Advance preparation	Contact Friends of the Island Fox (805-228-4123) or pat@islandfox.org to schedule the date for the presentation. Be certain to let the presenters know that the emphasis of their presentation should be about maintaining the balance of the Channel Island ecosystem, particularly how the keystone species, the Island Fox played a role. Share with the coordinator the types of activities you have done to have students understand how living things have their needs met in the environment, and how food chain and food webs work. If possible, try to schedule the visit as a culminating lesson for the unit. If that is not possible, prep students for the visit based on where you are in the unit.

Procedure:

Engage *(5 minutes) Ecosystems are interactions between living and non living things*

1. Connect students' understanding so far in the unit to the main ideas that the presenter will address.

Explore *Human actions can impact ecosystems.*

2. Ask presenters to make their presentation.

Explain *(10 minutes) Healthy ecosystems are in balance.*

3. Divide the class into 4 groups. Give each group a prompt based on the points made during the presentation (e.g., how did the examples the presenter used match with what you think about food chains?)
4. Ask groups to discuss the prompts and be prepared to make 3 summary statements to the whole class.
5. Ask the groups to share their ideas.

Extend/Evaluate (15 minutes) Students can be active citizens that positively interact with the environment

6. Read and discuss, "The Lorax"
7. Distribute 3x cards and ask students: What will you do with your Truffula Seed?