



## The Value of Trees

(adapted from Environment Canada's publication *From the Mountains to the Sea: A Journey in Environmental Citizenship*)

**Age:** Grades 2-6

### Lesson Plan One: Blue Trees

**Objective:** To understand the significance of trees in our environment and to learn to view them from a different lens.

**Background:** The blue trees in the movie resulted from one man trying to bring attention to the problem of global deforestation. Konstantin Dimopoulos wanted us to look at trees differently and to see them for what they are – our oxygen – and habitat for so many living creatures. This assignment is designed to help you see trees and nature differently and is an opportunity to appreciate nature and change the way others view nature as well.

**Activity:** Read the Dr. Seuss book *The Lorax* (the movie could be screened as a culminating event to this lesson).

Choose **one** of the following tasks:

**Pretend you are a tree.** Write your life story. What is your relationship with all the other aspects of the environment – water, air, soil, wildlife, humans, other plants? Why are you valuable? What would you ask people to do for you? How can people use you to help the environment?

**Horror Story.** All of the trees in the world are being cut down. What will happen?

**Quick Contest.** Working in groups or teams: Who can come up with the most reasons why trees are important?

**Research.** Paper was once a tree. Trace the route it took to get from the forest to you.

**Challenge:** Recycling one tonne of newspapers saves 17 trees. How can you, your classmates and your school conserve paper and save a tree.

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