

Yum-Yum Trees

Topic

Human integration with the environment: conservation of resources

Objective

Students will devise at least one possible solution to the problem-solving dilemma presented in the activity. They will name at least three renewable and three nonrenewable natural resources that are subjects of contemporary conservation measures.

Materials

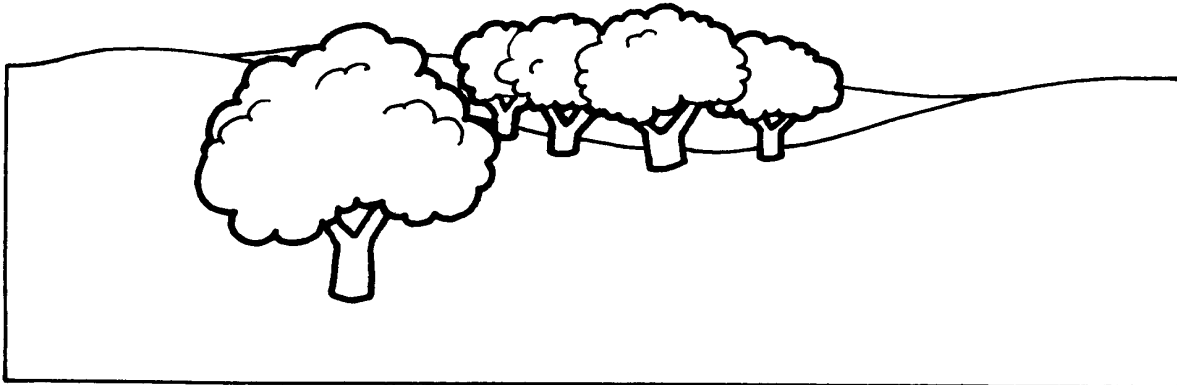
- pages 45–46 (one copy for each student)

Preparation

Make an appropriate number of copies of pages 45–46.

Procedure

1. Divide the class into heterogeneous cooperative learning teams. Ask each team to choose a reporter or spokesperson.
2. Pass out copies of pages 45–46 to each student. Orally review the dilemma with the students as they read silently to themselves.
3. Have teams convene in a brainstorming session for three to five minutes. All possible ideas for solving the dilemma are presented by team members without censorship.
4. During a subsequent three- to five-minute session, teams should begin to eliminate those solutions with unfavorable consequences for the Ube tribe. Using general consensus, each team should settle upon what they believe to be their single best solution to share with the class.
5. Each spokesperson should share his or her team's solution with the class and field questions from classmates and/or the instructor. Any idea should be accepted if there is evidence of critical thinking in the team's decision-making process.



Yum-Yum Trees *(cont.)*

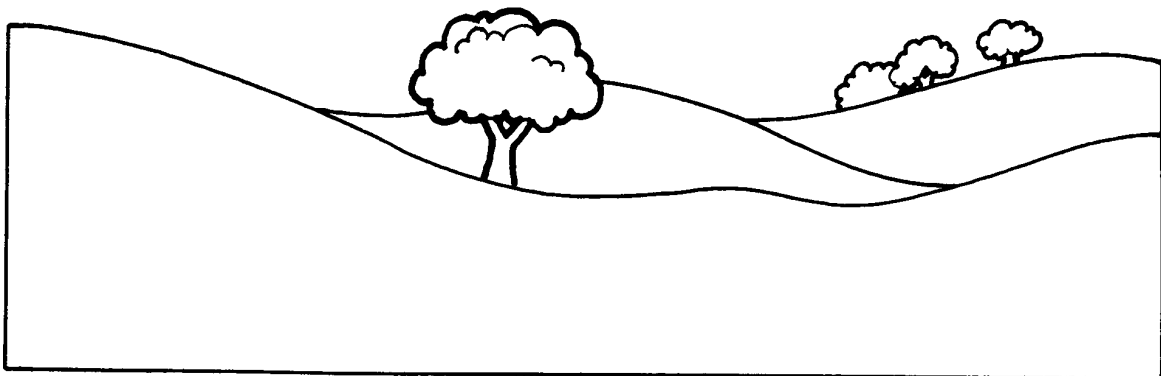
For Discussion

After all teams have shared their suggestions, conduct a discussion regarding the question of what might have caused the extinction of the Ube's yum-yums. While some students may suggest natural causes for the extinction of the yum-yum trees, others will undoubtedly bring up the point that the tribe over-harvested the trees without regard to eventual consequences. Make a connection between this observation and similar damage which has occurred in the world's present environment. Other questions to ask might include, What possible cost did the Ubes face because of an error in conservation? Are there any lessons in the dilemma of the Ubes that pertain to society today?

Next, discuss the meaning of "renewable" and "nonrenewable" natural resources. Give some examples of each to stimulate thought, then have teams or individual students make a list of renewable and/or nonrenewable resources that are the subject of conservation measures in the local, national, or global community.

Background

This problem-solving activity presents several topics for investigation. While there are no definite right or wrong answers for this dilemma, certain solutions have more potential than others. For example, the Ubes may decide that it's better to send small bands of people to obtain yum-yums, or that seeds might be brought back from the excursion instead of entire trees. However, all student-generated solutions should be considered. Whatever solutions are generated, be sure to use the activity to discuss not only how geography determines how people live, but how contemporary people have risked their future by showing an uncontrollable appetite for natural resources.



The Yum-Yum Tree Dilemma

For many years, the peaceable Ube tribe used the wood from yum-yum trees to make canoes and build huts in their village. They also used the fruit from the yum-yum tree in their cooking. Eventually, the Ubes used up all the yum-yums trees around the village. The Ubes would have to go elsewhere to obtain their favorite tree, but where?

The tribe finally heard that there were some yum-yum trees located atop Chimney Cliffs. The only trouble was, the cliffs dropped a sheer 200 feet (60m) to the Deepwet Ocean. Chimney Cliffs and the yum-yum trees that grew there were many days away by canoe. In addition, a vicious headhunting tribe, the Onos, patrolled the stormy waters of the Deepwet Ocean near the Ube village, making travel by sea difficult.

To complicate matters, the Ubes were also surrounded by formidable natural barriers that made travel by land difficult as well. By foot, a round trip across the Hot Pepper Desert would take almost a month. The Raging River was too swift to navigate upstream. And the Snowy Mountains were so high they were impassable.

But even with all the obstacles, the Ubes still felt that they must have yum-yum trees. Using the accompanying map and some problem solving, make a plan that the Ube tribe can use to get more yum-yum trees.

Questions to Consider

- Should the Ubes try to collect wood and harvest fruit from the yum-yums above Chimney Cliffs to take to their village?
- Should the whole Ube tribe consider migrating to the area rich with yum-yum trees?
- Is there a way to return the Ube village to its former state of having plentiful yum-yum trees? If they can restore the yum-yum tree population, how can they avoid a recurrence of the same situation?
- Is war with the Onos a possibility? If so, would victory for the Ubes solve their basic problem? Why? Why not?

Yum-Yum Territory Map

