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A Future in Forestry

Carbon is an important molecule in our world. We may not need it for many things ourselves, but other organisms and processes certainly do. To get the oxygen we need for respiration, photosynthetic autotrophs need carbon to perform photosynthesis. Carbon is needed for a tree's material makeup; it is stored within them. Quality forestry is essential to keeping the carbon cycle up and running, especially with the growing population.

The carbon cycle is the flow of carbon through our environment. Carbon starts as a gas in the atmosphere. From there it is taken in by the aforementioned autotrophs for photosynthesis and turned into oxygen and glucose. The oxygen is released into the atmosphere and the glucose is kept for energy. Oxygen gets reabsorbed and gets used for the process of respiration. Carbon is released every time we burn fossil fuels, whether it is from our cars or from big factories. Because the carbon is released in such a large quantity, it accumulates very quickly. Carbon cycles through most natural processes, such as organism death and excretion.

Forestry is the sustainable management of woodlands. It is particularly imperative that we practice good forestry in order to keep our forests healthy and accessible for the future. The role forestry plays is that of a cause and effect. Because we practice forestry, there are abundant trees to perform photosynthesis and provide us with some of our absent minded daily goods. Forestry helps maintain the carbon cycle and keep it running efficiently.

There are many ways to help protect our forests. Practicing upstanding forestry is one of them. Everytime we cut down a tree, a common principle is to replant at least one tree to replace

it. This helps to limit deforestation, or the cutting down, of trees by replenishing the stock as we go. Another practice would be the creation and conservation of national forests. This serves as a sanctuary for trees and ensures that they are well-cared for. Forest monitoring is also a sound way to keep track of how well our forests are fairing. Yale's Global Forest Atlas says the following about the application of Forest monitoring: "defined by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) as the regular and periodic measurement of certain parameters of forests (physical, chemical, and biological) to determine baselines to detect and observe changes over time." REDD+ is " Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation". It is a program designed to help developing countries reduce their emissions by executing conservation implementations in exchange for financial rewards from international funds.

Forestry is crucial for the future of our carbon cycle. We must work towards a deeper understanding and appreciation of our trees and what they do for us. Everybody must become aware of the dangers that comes from not protecting the forests we have left , while also comprehending the profit that forestry presents to us. All in all, we must channel our inner "Lorax" and pursue a brighter future for our forests.