Timber

Tremont Staff

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS INSTITUTE AT TREMONT

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Logging operations monopolized these hills before the establishment of Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Though it provided many jobs immediately, clear-cutting methods forced companies to constantly move, harvesting the timber of one region before continuing to the next. Soil erosion increased as tree roots vanished and could no longer hold the surface in place. Historic accounts of this era describe rivers turning brown as mud and muck oozed from logging operations upstream. The decline of ecosystem biodiversity would have continued had the park not been created, and thanks to conservation efforts and habitat management, clear-cut forests are slowly recovering. Students can help reduce the amount of clear-cut logging in east Tennessee by advocating for sustainable practices and educating others about their importance for long-term environmental equilibrium.

LIFE SCIENCE

6.LS2.6	Research the ways in which an ecosystem has changed over time in response to changes in physical conditions, population balances, human interactions, and natural catastrophes.
6.LS4.2	Design a possible solution for maintaining biodiversity of ecosystems while still providing necessary human resources without disrupting environmental equilibrium.

EARTH & SPACE SCIENCE

4.ESS2.3	Provide examples to support the claim that organisms affect the physical characteristics of their regions.
4.ESS3.1	Obtain and combine information to describe that energy and fuels are derived from natural resources and that some energy and fuel sources are renewable (sunlight, wind, water) and some are not (fossil fuels, minerals).
4.ESS3.2	Create an argument, using evidence from research, that human activity (farming, mining, building) can affect the land and ocean in positive and/or negative ways.
6.ESS2.4	Apply scientific principles to design a method to analyze and interpret the impact of humans and other organisms on the hydrologic cycle.
6.ESS3.1	Differentiate between renewable and nonrenewable resources by asking questions about their availability and sustainability.
6.ESS3.3	Assess the impacts of human activities on the biosphere including conservation, habitat management, species endangerment, and extinction.

ENGINGEERING, TECHNOLOGY & APPLICATIONS OF SCIENCE

6.ETS1.1	Evaluate design constraints on solutions for maintaining ecosystems and biodiversity.

CHORUS
It's coming down
We're cutting timber
Chestnut, hemlock, poplar and pine
We'll clear it all
For Little River
Colonel Townsend, you know that's right

The bigger the trees, the more money for me
Crosscut's my tool and it saws right through
Once we lay the tracks, we skid them right down
That's how we get these trees to town

Trees down and load them up
That's how we move the, what?
It's really booming now
Get on this train or get out of town

(x2)
Trees, we're cutting all around
Every ridge, they're coming down
Old-growth chestnuts fat and round
Every ridge, they're coming down

CHORUS

Look up at the ridge, not a tree, not a thing
We cleared it out and we came with a bang
Live in car shacks, swing on trains
These days speckled trout aren't a thing

The farming life, it's just not for me
A lumberjack now, that's what I be
Filling up Tremont town, we are about to cut it down

(x2)
Trees, we're cutting all around
Every ridge, they're coming down
Old-growth chestnuts fat and round
Every ridge, they're coming down

CHORUS

We cleared it all
Now there's no timber
We'll have to move
Boomtown is dead

We cleared it all
For Little River
And left a scar
You won't forget