

Story from Peace Corps/Jamaica By Danielle Pittner and Linsey Sammons

Once upon a time there was an island called Jamaica.
The people there found bauxite, so the earth they began to break up.
They cleared away the trees to make room for all the mines.
Little did they know deforestation would bring bad times.

The first to fall were the white olive trees
Who would no longer feel the nice Jamaican breeze.

► Remove — White Olive Trees

Without the trees the parrots lost their homes.
Their magnificent colors no longer would be shown.

► Remove — Parrots

Without the parrots the snakes' bellies were no longer full.
They were hungry all the time, which just isn't cool.

► Remove — Yellow Snake

Without the yellow snake, the rat population grew and grew.
They chewed up the banana plants all the way through.

► Remove — Banana Plants

The banana plant wasn't alone; all the crops did suffer.
This made farming tougher and tougher.

► Remove — Farmers

Without the farmer's fruit the children were sad.
They had to get their potatoes out of a chip bag

► Remove — Children

- ▶ (Insert: See alternate ending for larger groups)

The chip bags they dropped all over the land.

They blew into the rivers where the fish swam.

The moral of this story is plain to see:

Damage done up top at the bottom will also be.

- ▶ Final chair remaining — Fish

- ▶ (Alternate Ending):

They just dropped their chip bags; they didn't think of it as litter.

Little did they know they'd end up in the river.

- ▶ Remove — River

With the river flowed the litter down into the sea,

Where the coral couldn't breathe because of all the debris.

- ▶ Remove — Coral

Oh, did the coral and the reef became sad,

'Cause all the fishies' homes were gone and that was real bad.

- ▶ Remove — Fish

The fish were no more and the nets were all empty.

Now there are none where once there was plenty.

The moral of this story is plain to see:

Damage done up top at the bottom will also be.

- ▶ Final chair remaining — Fishermen

Post-activity questions to consider

1. What does "ridge-to-reef" mean?
2. Did anything in the story surprise you?
3. What did you learn?
4. Did you like the game?