



' Smarter...Greener...Safer...' _ GreenSmart Stories

'Green Hills'

Once upon a time, in the Kingdom of 'Green Hills', located on an island of 'One Hundred Roses', there lived a Queen who was very devoted to all the inhabitants. She loved them all. She was a role model of how to live on the island. She taught her people how to be patriotic. She encouraged them to respect one another and, first of all, to respect the nature around them.

The Queen warned the inhabitants that if anyone intentionally does any harm to other people, trees, bushes and other plants on the Island, they will put the country in danger. She said: 'There are roses growing alongside the coastline of our island. Every act of doing some harm to others or the environment will result in the fall of one rose petal. If all the rose petals fall down, the Kingdom will be in serious danger and no one will be able to save it.' The island inhabitants took the Queen's words very seriously. They tried to live in harmony with nature. If they used any natural resources, they tried not to do any harm to the environment. They even discovered some hot springs. They started using geothermal energy to heat their houses and thanks to that they did not pollute the atmosphere. The natural hot water was used on the farms as well. The people segregated rubbish and put it into special containers so that it could be recycled and used again.

Unfortunately, not all the inhabitants took the Queen's words seriously enough. Year by year, there was more and more devastation to the natural environment of 'Green Hills'. Some people were in great conflict with one another. They became greedy and wanted to have more and more and become richer and richer. They were so busy that they did not even notice when the last rose petal fell down ... The roses could not defend the Kingdom borders any longer... Newcomers started to arrive. They started building mines, factories and ironworks. The sky, which used to be clear and blue, was now covered with heavy clouds of smoke. The air was not clean any longer. People had problems with breathing and they fell ill much more frequently. No one cared about recycling and the environment became polluted and destroyed very soon.

The people finally realised the situation. They remembered the Queen's words ... but it was too late. The natural environment, so precious and necessary to live, was totally devastated. The lesson came too late ...

Let's protect our natural environment and our beautiful planet !!!

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QUESTIONS for a discussion:

1. How did people of Green Hills protect their natural environment in the beginning?
2. What caused the devastation of the natural environment of Green Hills?
3. What kind of scientific knowledge might have helped the people to prevent the ecological disaster? (think of knowledge of different subjects such as Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Maths, Geography, etc.)