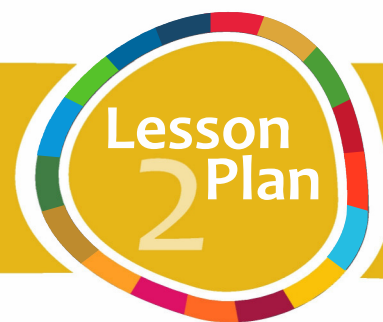


Plastic a boon or bane?!



INTRODUCTION:

Plastics have become omnipresent and essential part of our life due to its properties like being light weight requires less energy to transport, cheaper than alternatives and conserve metal and wood resources, very durable and inert nature finds usage in many industries and storage but the same properties make it undesirable as they remain forever and choke up natural systems especially water ways and are killing wild animals both on land and in ocean.

The problem associated with plastics is more to do with our behaviours of littering. The lesson encourages children to research the issues with plastic and develop an Eco Code.

Objective:

Students will be able to

- observe the omnipresence of plastic.
- explain the negative impact of plastic on the environment.
- develop an attitude of thoughtful buying leading to waste reduction.
- reflect on whether plastic is really needed and what are the alternatives to plastic use.

Eco-Schools Steps: Environmental review, Curriculum linkages, Inform and Involve, Eco-Code

Curriculum Linkage: Science/ Environmental



13-16
Years

Time required/ Duration:

- **Classroom session 1:** 45 minutes (for screening two documentaries, 'Plastic Ocean' and 'You Can Live Without Producing Trash').
- **Home Assignment:** Two days for auditing personal plastic use.
- **Classroom Session 2:** 45 minutes for wrap and for preparing the Eco-Schools bulletin board for display.

Resources Required:

- Student stationery including notepads and writing material.
- Internet
- Laptop/ Projector
- Video links - Film “Plastic Ocean” and “ You can Live Without Producing Trash”



Activity

Classroom session 1

- Screen the two documentaries. Make it sure that the documentary on Plastic ocean is screened first.
- Facilitate a classroom based interaction with students discussing various uses of plastic in their daily lives, including their advantages and disadvantages.

Home Assignment 1

- Ask the students to document the different types of plastic they use over two days with details of the purpose of use, including advantages, disadvantages and alternatives.

Classroom session 2

- Divide the class into individual groups.
- Ask the members of the group to share their consolidated lists.
- Engage students in a discussion on different ways plastic products which could be avoided.
- Ask the students to display the list on the Eco-Schools bulletin board as part of inform and involve.
- Ask students to develop an Eco-Code to reduce the generation of plastic waste.
- Ask the students to share the Eco-Code on the Eco-Schools bulletin board and run a signature campaign.

Evaluation

- Teachers should be able to assess student understand based on the following
 - Lists prepared by student groups as part of the home assignment.
 - Eco-Code developed by students.

Resource 2

Video Links:

1. **Plastic Ocean'**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ju_2NuK5O-E (impacts of plastic on seabirds)
2. **You Can Live Without Producing Trash'** (how to reduce the waste individuals produce)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nYDQcBQUdpw>

