

TEACHER'S GUIDE

WATER WIZARDS

SHOPPING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Review

Remind students of what they learned in the last activity.

Purpose

The purpose of this activity is to encourage critical thinking skills and demonstrate real life choices based on concern for the environment.

Materials

Items listed on teacher's product list (or substitutions as desired). Many stores will let you "borrow" the items for class so that no purchase is necessary. Student shopping list is in the student workbook.

Experiment for "Do this"

1. Lay out products on tables.
2. Direct students to make product choices they think are "best for the environment" and write their choice in the second column. They are not to write in the third column yet.
3. Encourage students to read labels to look for clues, but warn them this may not be enough to make an informed choice. They will need to rely on their knowledge and common sense.
4. Students should be encouraged to talk to others about their choices while they are shopping.
5. Shopping will take 20-30 minutes for most students, then the remainder of time can be used for discussion.
6. Score using summary.

Reinforcement in "Can You Tell Me..."

Have students answer questions individually or as a group. Encourage creativity. Let students complete Water Wizard Workout as time allows.

Extension

1. Review "Water Wizards Home Brew" for students. Encourage students to share with their parents and incorporate activities into their daily life. Let students share results with the class.
2. in another class period show "Bottom of the Barrel" 3-2-1 Contact Videotape (should be available in your Board of Education office).
3. Take shopping field trip. Visit a grocery store or toy department and let students make shopping choices based on amount of packaging, natural or man-made products, reusability, renewable/nonrenewable resources and amount of trash generated.

TEACHER'S PRODUCT LIST

ITEM

apples
light bulbs
candy
snacks
bug killer
soda pop
laundry detergent
milk
picnic plate
napkins
diapers
dolls
matchbox cars
batteries
notebook paper
sandwich container
popcorn
fast food
clothes
barbies
toy

PRODUCT CHOICE

canned applesauce - fresh apple
 75 watt - 40 watt
 large bar, paper wrap - bag of small bars, foil wrap
 large bag of chips - box of assorted individuals
 aerosol spray - fly swatter
 can - glass bottle - plastic
 large size - individual packages
 plastic jug - paper carton
 paper - foam
 cloth - printed - white
 cloth - disposable - ultra thin disposable
 all plastic body - Cabbage Patch or cloth body
 multi-pack - individual packaged car
 rechargeable - single use
 recycled notebook - unrecycled paper
 sandwich bags - plastic sandwich box - wax paper
 microwave bags - large bag
 paper wrap - styrofoam box
 100 % cotton shirt - synthetic fabric garment (with label)
 new barbie - new outfit
 battery operated - non-battery operated

PRODUCT DISCUSSION:**ITEM**

apple
light bulb
candy
snacks
bug killer
soda pop
laundry detergent

CHOICE

Choose the fresh apple which requires much less energy to bring to you. score canned +2 fresh +1
 Choose the 40 watt bulb which uses less energy. score 75 watt +2 40 watt +1
 Choose the paper wrap which is biodegradable. score foil +2 paper +1
 Choose the large bag of chips which has less packaging. score individuals +2 large bag +1
 Choose the fly swatter which may be reused many times and is not hazardous. score aerosol +2 swatter +1
 Choose the bottle which may be reused many times or recycled. The aluminum can is from more scarce and expensive resource. The plastic bottle is the worst of all because it is very hard to recycle, uses oil to produce and is not biodegradable. score plastic +3 can +2 glass +1
 Choose the large size because there is less waste packaging and less energy to produce. The individual packages are the worst. Look for large boxes made from recycled paper (Proctor & Gamble products). score packets +2 large size +1

milk	Choose the paper carton because it is biodegradable. score plastic jug +2 paper carton +1
picnic plates	Choose the paper because it is biodegradable and does not use oil to produce. score foam +2 paper +1
napkins	Choose the cloth napkins because they are made from natural products and can be used over and over. White paper napkins are better than printed because the dye will pollute the water. score printed +3 white +2 cloth +1
diapers	Choose cloth because they can be used over and over without adding garbage. Ultra-thin disposables are better than disposables because they make half as much waste, but the plastic still uses oil in manufacturing. score regular disposable +3 ultra-thin +2 cloth +1
dolls	Choose cloth body doll because of energy required in plastics. score plastic +2 cloth +1
matchbox cars	Choose the multi-pack because of less packaging per car. score individual +2 multi +1
sandwich containers	Choose the wax paper because it is biodegradable. The box is better than bags because it can be used over and over. score bags +3 box +2 paper +1
popcorn	Choose the large bag because of less waste and energy to package. score microwave +2 bag +1
clothes	Choose the cotton garment because it is from a natural product and does not use oil. score synthetic +2 cotton +1
barbies	Choose the outfit because you probably already have the doll and she is plastic. barbie +2 outfit +1
toy	Choose the non battery toy to save energy and waste. score battery operated +2 non battery +1

SCORE: The best score is the lowest.
None of the products were given an eco rating of 0 because they all require resources and energy to deliver them to you, so they all have some environmental cost.