

What, no plastic?!

Problem solving with materials

Key Stage 2

National Curriculum

area: Science - Materials,
Sustainability

Length of session: 75 minutes

Maximum group size: 32



Session Outline

In this interactive session pupils explore alternative materials to plastic as they investigate materials used in a range of cultures past, present and future.

Activity 1 Problems of plastic

Discover why plastic was invented, the problems it has caused and what is being done to help solve the problem.

Activity 2 Guided activities

On a guided tour pupils will be inspired by materials used by people around the world and explore issues of reduce, reuse, recycle. Please organise groups to have a ratio of one Primary Guide to every ten pupils.

Activity 3 Creative challenge

Pupils plan what to pack for a journey - no plastic allowed! They are encouraged to be sustainable and inventive!

Learning Outcomes

- Understand why plastic was developed and the problems it has caused
- Consider alternative materials to using plastic by looking at materials used by a range of cultures, and evaluating the pros and cons of the materials
- Encourage pupils to be active citizens as they explore concepts of reduce, reuse and recycle.

Pre visit activities

Monitor or survey the use of plastic in certain places eg home, journey to school, classroom

Identify some of the problems created by plastic, including how it links to climate change

Understand what is meant by single-use plastics and how they can be avoided

Consider reduce, reuse, recycle in the context of school, home and/or the local community

Post visit activities

Design a challenge to repurpose items or make a bag/toy using sustainable materials

Search for films about how surprising materials are made like mushroom and pineapple leather

Find out more about sustainable fashion, investigating materials like fairtrade cotton and vegan leather

Devise a campaign to persuade people to use less stuff! They could share, borrow or mend more.....



For further details and how to book visit:

www.prm.ox.ac.uk/primary-schools