

GREEN Shopping Outline



Age Level: 5th grade- Adult

Time Needed: 40-60 minutes

Supplies Needed: Props for 10 stations (List is included, adjust for your area), kitchen timer, handouts, scratch paper, pencil for each student, ten pieces of paper numbered 1-10.

Supplement to: Business/Marketing High School Class, Ecology Unit, Earth Day Unit, Conservation of Resources Unit, Family Living Unit

Ask the students to list the determining factors when purchasing an item. Give an example... Today you're going to buy a new pair of shoes or a computer, what kinds of things are you going to think about before you fork over your money? (As they give you suggestions, write them on the board or overhead). They usually come up with:

Price
Quality/Durability
Style/Fashion/Fad/Color
Name Brand
Convenience/Location of Store

After listing, erase all the suggestions. Pass out handout. Refer to the top of the GREEN Shopping Handout and tell the students that today's exercise will be shopping for the environment. To guide them review Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Nonrenewable & Renewable Resources and the terms Bulk and Concentrated.

Tell the students that ten stations have been placed around the room (place a numbered tent at each station). Their job is to rank how environmentally-friendly various products are based on the four tips (packaging, pollutants, energy used, chemicals used).

Number the students off one to ten and have them start at their number. Give them scratch paper for ranking at the stations. Give them 60-90 seconds at each station. While they are working on the stations, give each group a number. That group will be responsible for sharing their thoughts on that station during the discussion.

Don't have the students get hung up on getting **all the right** answers. Sometimes there are not right answers and some answers may vary from region to region and state to state.

When all of the groups are done have them sit down with their group members.

Ask... Which group was given Station #1? Which item did you rank as being the most green or friendliest to the environment?

Station 1- BAGS- Talk about the hierarchy of reduce, reuse, then recycle. Consider what kinds of resources are used to make all three bags and how long they will last.

Brown Paper (Kraft) Bag

Plastic Bag

Canvas/Denim Bag

Optional: Organic Cotton Bag/Hemp Bag

Station 2- BEVERAGE CONTAINERS- Lends itself to talk about the 11 states that have a Bottle Deposit Law and their recycling rates versus states with no bottle bills.

Plastic 20 oz Pop Container

Glass Pop Container

Aluminum Pop Container

Station 3- LIGHTBULBS- Discuss incandescent vs. compact fluorescent light bulbs

Introduce students to the Energy Star Label. Discuss where their energy comes from. Does it come from burning coal? From nuclear energy? A majority of students do not understand the connection between leaving the lights on in a room and carbon dioxide emissions.

Station 4- JUICE- Discuss: Concentrates/Single serving packaging/Materials used

Juice Box or Capri Sun Juice Packets

Kool-Aid in plastic #4

Sunny Delight in Lg. Plastic Container (HDPE)

Juice in #1 Clear Plastic

Concentrate (Waxy Cardboard Container)

Concentrate (Aluminum Container)

Concentrate (Plastic Container-HDPE)

Station 5- YOGURT- Talk about marketability and prices for different types of plastic

Yogurt Cup- #2 (HDPE)

Yogurt Cup- #5

Station 6- CRACKERS- Talk about bulk vs. single serving size, packaging costs & wastes

Box of Crackers

single serving packet of crackers

Station 7- SHIPPING/PACKING MATERIALS-

Styrofoam vs. Shaped Cardboard

or Packing Peanuts (Bio-degradable vs. Styrofoam)

Station 8- NOTEBOOKS- Discuss "closing the loop" and buying recycled.

Virgin paper notebook

Recycled-content notebook (various %'s)

Optional- Chlorine-free recycled paper

Station 9- FERTILIZERS- Talk about non-point source pollution & over-application

Bag of Worm Castings

Bag of commercial Lawn fertilizer (double bag for safe

handling)

Station 10- PAINT- Discuss types of paint, clean-up, & disposal differences. Do students know how to dispose of water-based paint (dry out or mix with kitty-litter)? Are they aware of RCC's (Regional Collection Centers) to dispose of aerosol & oil-based paint?

Aerosol paint

Water-based paint

Oil-based paint