

Consumption – Reduce, Reuse & Refuse



Introduction

This lesson plan focuses on how consumption can be reduced and how things can be reused. Many children are not familiar with the concept of reduce, reuse and recycle. This is because they are unaware of the environmental impact of the things they observe around them and things they buy. Milk in pouches, use and throw pens, polythene carry bags to bring purchases in, are a part of how they have seen it happening around them.

It can be often a discovery for children when they come to know that this was not the case during their parents' and grandparents' time. Plastics, because of their very nature, have over the years become an intrinsic part of life. Students need to understand why people have shifted to consumptive lifestyles which have made them more dependent on 'use and throw' products.

Objectives

Students will be able to

- Understand the importance of reducing consumption and also prompt them to reuse and refuse things.

Eco School Steps – Curriculum Linkages, Audit, Inform and Involve
Curriculum Linkages – Environmental Studies



Time Required

Classroom session 1: 20 minutes to set the context and brainstorm with students

Home assignment 1: 1 hour for Home survey worksheet

Classroom session 2: 20 minutes for discussion with students

Resources Required

- Blackboard
- Chalk
- Survey sheet
- List of different products
- Resource 1: Home survey worksheet



Classroom Session 1

- Write the names of commonly used items at home on the blackboard. Each student should be asked to give one name and once everyone has contributed, anyone can add more names if needed.
- Share the Home Survey worksheet with the students and explain how they should use it.

Home Assignment 1

- The students should fill the survey sheet after discussion with their grandparents and parents.
- The list they made in the class can be used as a reference to discuss with the respondents to understand whether the items in it were the same in each generation or a different item was used for the same purpose.

Classroom Session 2

- Discuss the products which are mentioned in the survey sheet with the class.
- Ask when the use of a disposable replacement of an item began and in which generation.
- Discuss in groups the possible reasons for why disposable items replaced natural products.

Conclusion

At the end of this activity, the students will be able to understand that plastic use is a relatively new phenomenon and many of the naturally degradable products used earlier can still be used instead of plastics.

Evaluation

Discuss the alternatives and check which ones students think can be either reduced or easily reused.

Resource 1

Survey Sheet

(answer Yes or No and if No, describe the alternatives used)

Discuss the alternatives and check which ones students think can be easily reduced and reused.

Name of the products	Did your parents use this product in their childhood?	Did your grandparents use this product in their childhood?	Do you use this product?	Can it be reduced?	Can it be reused?	Can it be refused?
Polythene Bags						
Chips & Snack Pouches						
Diapers						
Plastic Cups						
Soft Drink						
Bottles						
Shampoo bottles						
Soap Packets						
Toothbrush						
Band-Aid						
Styrofoam						
Toys						
Disposable plates						
Platic Straws						
Tetra-Pack						