

Rethink · Reduce · Reuse
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Grocery Store Scavenger Hunt

Grade level – 3-6

Subject – Social studies

Teaching time

- Week 1 – 15 minutes
- Week 2 – 1 hour

Skills – Gathering, interpreting, and presenting data

Materials – Copies of “Product Survey” sheet (see back)

Objectives

Packaging makes up about one-third of the waste produced. Students will understand how they and their families can make buying choices that help reduce the waste stream. Students will identify packaging choices for grocery products by researching a local store’s shelves. They will share with the class their lists of items with least wasteful packaging.

Procedure

Allow one week for this activity.

1. Explain to students that for homework they will conduct a survey of five grocery store products and their packaging.
2. Have students choose five products and complete the “Product Survey” chart for each. At least two products that are packaged in more than one way should be chosen. For example, cheese comes packaged in blocks and also in individually wrapped slices.
3. As a class, discuss the scavenger hunt results and how the students’ buying choices might be different now. Make a class list of the wisest buying choices and make copies for students to take home.

Simplified procedure

Have students find four products in recyclable packaging and two products in minimal packaging. Have them and a parent complete the “Product Survey” page. Do Step 3 of the procedure above.

Extension

Have students interview grocery store or fast food restaurant managers and write a report on the existing and planned waste reduction efforts of the store.

Pre- and post-activity questions

- How can you and your family change your buying habits to reduce the amount of packaging you throw away?
- How can we change the types of packaging that are used on the products we buy?
- What might make businesses think about the waste disposal and environmental problems that come with too much packaging?



King County

Department of
Natural Resources and Parks
Solid Waste Division

More on Back





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PRODUCT SURVEY

	Product 1	Product 2	Product 3	Product 4	Product 5
Is the packaging recyclable?					
Is the packaging made from recycled materials?					
Is the packaging reusable?					
Is the packaging necessary?					
Does the product come in other types of packaging?					
What other types of packaging does this product come in?					
How could the packaging be improved?					



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