

Our Plastic-Consumption Footprint

Eco360 Jr.

Activity

Grade Level: 3-8



Main Objectives

Learners will monitor their plastic waste on a weekly basis for a term and then take actions to reduce their plastic footprint.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this activity, learners will:

- Be able to identify different types of plastics, and their recyclability
- Exhibit an awareness of their plastic consumption lifestyle and how much plastic waste can be attributed to their current lifestyle
- Understand how behaviour change can create a positive impact on reducing plastic waste in our communities and around the world

Length of Activity: 45 - 60 minutes

Step 1: Intro to plastic footprints (5 minutes)

Step 2+3: Explore the plastic footprint calculator (35 minutes)

Step 4: Organize the different kinds of plastic waste (20 minutes)

Materials Required

- Internet-enabled device
- Locus of control worksheet
- Topic Backgrounder

Activity

Step 1: Introduction to plastic footprints (5 minutes)

Read the Backgrounder to the class so learners understand what a plastic consumption footprint is.

Step 2: Explore the plastic footprint calculator (15 minutes)

Using a projector and screen, project Plasticbank's Plastic Footprint Calculator:

 <https://plasticbank.com/plastic-footprint-calculator/> (educator only)

Explain that you will use this calculator to see how much plastic waste you create. You can explain that this is for adults since kids usually don't do the shopping for their households and don't make decisions about transportation (although, if the educator has children, they could be included in the calculations). Input your information to calculate your plastic footprint for the class to see.

Step 3: Class Discussion (15 minutes)

As a class discuss the following questions:

1. What kinds of things are calculated with the Plastic Footprint Calculator?
2. What are some things that I can do to reduce my plastic footprint?
3. What are some things that kids can do at home to reduce the plastic footprint of their families?

Step 4: Locus of Control Activity (20 minutes)

In small groups, discuss the follow questions before handing out the learner worksheet:

1. What are things I can control in my life to reduce plastic waste?
2. What are things I can influence (can I get my family to make changes to reduce plastic waste?)
3. Can I get stores/restaurants and companies to make changes?
4. What are things I cannot control?"

Individually, complete the provided Locus of Control graphic organizer

Use this list of items for them to classify on the organizer:

1. Water bottles
2. Plastic bags
3. Plastic straws/no straws
4. Clothing
5. Plastic cup/cup lid at a fast-food restaurant
6. Plastic take-out containers
7. Plastic toothbrush
8. Food wrappers (granola bars, fruit snacks)
9. Plastic grocery bags
10. Other ideas that students come up with