

Plastic Re-Make

Eco360Jr
Activity
Grade Level: 3-8



Objectives

Learners will explore ways in which plastic waste can be repurposed to create consumer goods. Learners will complete a make- remake activity where they will go through a design challenge to make something new out of recycled plastic.

Learning Outcomes

After completing this activity, learners will:

- Be able to describe how plastic can be recycled to make consumer goods in a circular economy.
- Be able to identify innovative ways in which plastic can be used utilized to make consumer goods.
- Be able to create something useful out of recycled plastic

Time Required: 1.5 - 2 hours, depending on grade level

Materials

- internet-enabled device
- clean plastic items (bottles, containers, toys, etc.)
- “What to do with Plastics” backgrounder

Activities

- Find out how plastics are currently recycled to make consumer goods
- Research companies that recycle plastic into other things (clothing, shoes, toys, etc.)
- Create something new out of old plastic

Brainstorming Activity (10 minutes)

How can we make something new from the plastic waste we have? As a class brainstorm ways you can turn something old into something new again. Need inspiration? Plastic water bottles are one of the most common plastic waste items, here are some ideas for you to create something new from them:

https://gardeningtips.diyeverywhere.com/2017/09/25/save-your-plastic-bottles-youre-gonna-need-them-for-your-garden/?src=fbfan_61506&t=fbsub_slowcookerkitchen&rp=20220530&fbclid=IwAR3coaCmKQdUMxSHRztQIIg6jU883VOS34BzPzQzZckLzH4jg-5F9-RXZ11

Remake Activity

Grades 3-8 (1 hour)

Get building and do a remake activity with your class! In small groups have your learners decide on what they would like to remake. They can use ideas from your discussion, the link above, or something unique to them!

Alternative Activity: Toy Swap! (1 hour)

Have your learners bring in all their old plastic toy parts that don't have any purpose any more. Put all the parts together and create some new, cool toys! Older students could even create a marketplace for younger learners to 'purchase' the cool new toys and/or come up with a media literacy poster to advertise these new toys.

Grades 6-8 (1.5 hours)

Read the spotlights in "What to do with plastics" with the class and watch the videos. Divide the class into small groups to research a company that takes plastic and makes a new product from that plastic. Present your company to the class.