

The Packaging Problem

Workshop description:

Students look at consumer responsibility with regards to reducing the amount of packaging waste that is generated in the UK. Should consumers, retailers, local councils or the Government take responsibility?

Summary of workshop:

- What are the purposes of packaging?
- What could different sectors of society do to reduce packaging?
- Who should be responsible for reducing packaging waste?

Time: 45mins-1hr

Number of students: 15-30

Suitable for years: 9-11

Misconceptions:

- That all packaging is bad.
- That only legislation set by the Government will reduce packaging waste.
- That choices made by consumers do not influence retailers and manufacturers.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the workshop pupils should be able to:

- Give one reason why packaging can be necessary.
- Give one reason why products are often over-packaged.
- Give an example of something a consumer, retailer, council or the government could do to reduce packaging waste.

Vocabulary: **KS3** – Consumer, retailer.

KS4 – Legislation

Resources: (All supplied by SWAP unless stated otherwise.)

Projector and laptop **or memory stick if the school has the necessary ICT system in place.**

Photos of packaged goods.

“Who should do what” sentence cards

Duration

2mins

5-7mins

10-15mins

10-12mins

10-13mins

5-8mins

3mins

Teaching and Learning activities:

Introduce myself, SWAP and what we will be doing in this workshop.

Students discuss the different purposes of packaging.

Presentation on some of the problems caused by packaging.

Students work in teams to look at similar products with different packaging. They discuss the pros and cons of each type of packaging.

Students use sentence cards to decide “Who should do what”

Students feed back their opinions

Students vote to say who they think should be responsible for reducing packaging waste.