

Tools For Solidarity

Natural Resources and Reducing Waste

Education For Sustainable
Development Session 3



Objectives

- Gain an understanding of where different materials come from and how we use them
- Encourage thinking about how we can reduce waste
- Highlight the problem of overconsumption
- Encourage behaviours such as reducing, repairing and reusing

Materials Required

- Natural Resources and Reducing Waste (Session 3 Slideshow) - available to download from Tools For Solidarity (TFS) website

- videos:

- 'Trash Me with Rob Greenfield' by *Rob Greenfield* - available on YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KH20tkp_EhY

- '5 Tips From The Trash Man to Go Near Zero Waste' by *Rob Greenfield* - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wkETEa7ze2M> *

- play dough (there are several videos online that show how to make play dough)
- True or False Statements - available to download from TFS website

*With thanks to Rob Greenfield for allowing us to share these videos (Creative Commons - <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).

- Find links to Rob Greenfield's work below:

<https://youtube.com/robgreenfield>

www.instagram.com/robgreenfield

Session 3 Outline

What do we throw out? (Slides 1-3)

Slide 1: Title Slide

- revise session 2

"What did we learn last week? What are the 4 basic needs? What is relative poverty? What is extreme poverty?"

- Warm Up - True or False Statements: if pupils think the statement is true they stand up and if they think it's false they remain seated. N.B. If you have enough space you may prefer to do a walking debate (pupils walk to the right of the room for true and to the left of the room for false).
- Read the statements and spend time discussing the pupils' opinions.

Slides 2-3: How many things do we throw away?

- Make a list of things we throw away on the board: "I'm going to write a list of things that we buy and then throw away. Can you help me with some ideas? For example, what has anyone already thrown in the bin today?"
- Ask about what we throw out after breakfast and in school and then continue onto things that we dump less frequently: phone, laptop, cars, sofa, etc.
- Keep going until the board is full of answers: "As you can see, we dump nearly everything we buy!"



Video (Slide 4)

- Show 'Trash Me with Rob Greenfield': "Why is Rob doing this experiment? What does he mean by saying that rubbish is 'out of sight, out of mind'?"

Where do our materials come from? (Slide 5)

- Go through each material: paper - trees, clothes - materials (e.g. cotton from plants, wool from sheep and leather from cows), glass - sand, plastic - oil, cans - metal (aluminium). "Hands up who knows where each of these materials come from! What are they made from?"
- "Some materials are man-made while others are natural. What about the things we can see on the slide, e.g. cotton, sand or oil? We don't make these. Where do they come from? Nature or the Earth. They are called natural resources."
- Highlight how long it takes the Earth to produce these materials. "How many years does a *tree* need to grow? That depends on the tree! Some trees might be mature (become an adult) at 20 or 30 years, but trees like yews and oaks can live between 700-1,000 years or more! What about *oil*? Oil can be found under the sea floor and under certain areas of land. It actually took millions of years to form! There is no way for us to replace it if we keep extracting it from the Earth!"
- Emphasise that we are consuming too many objects such as those mentioned on our list (slide 3) and that we are running out of the Earth's resources. "If we make, buy and throw away so many items, can you think of any problems? If we keep buying and throwing out objects what will happen to the Earth's resources? We will run out!"

What would you build with these materials? (Slide 6)

- Divide the class in 5 groups. Give each group a material listed on the slide (e.g. plastic). Each group should use play dough to make 5 things that can be made from their material, e.g. plastic - lunch box; metal - spoon.
- Give each group a minute to present their ideas and show what they made.

Concentration Game

- Play a 5 minute concentration game of your choice.

Do you know any tips to reduce waste and help the planet? (Slides 7-9)

- In the same groups, pupils discuss ideas.
- Before watching the 2nd video, ask pupils to look out for any tips they haven't mentioned.



Slide 8: Video

- Play '5 Tips From The Trash Man to Go Near Zero Waste'.

"What tips did Rob mention? Do you think these are hard to do? Do you do any already?"

Slide 9: Resources quiz

- In groups, discuss which option is best for the planet. Which options reduce waste? Which options do not require new materials to be used?

Concluding Discussion (Slides 10-12)

Slide 10: Some Questions

- Discuss the questions as a whole class. You might like to mention initiatives such as repair cafés if available in your area. Another idea for discussion is what else you could do as a class or a school to reduce waste.

Slide 11: Fairtrade symbol

- For the next session pupils see if they can spot the symbol at home, in the shops or in school. In the next session they look at fairtrade cocoa in particular.

Slide 12: Closing slide