

Polymer Activity from the:



Teachers may reproduce this activity for their use.

Imagine a Day Without Plastics

Grades: K-2, 3-5, 6-8

Background: We live in a world of plastics. Plastics are all around us from the time we wake until we go to sleep. They help to transport us, keep our food and drinks fresh, clothe us, and protect and beautify our homes.

Students should have spent time identifying plastics in their world prior to the writing activity. Identifying recyclables, household items, clothing, and less obvious plastic materials will be beneficial to the lesson, so it is appropriate to use this as a culminating lesson in the science unit, or as a cross curricular lesson in language arts.

Purpose: Students should identify at least five ways their lives would be different and the effects caused by a world without plastics.

Science Standards: Student Skills and Academic Standards: Composing, Defining, Problem Solving, Discussing, Evaluating, Organizing information, Reasoning, Summarizing, and Creating.

English: B. Writing

C. Oral Language

Social Studies: D. Economics

Science: D. Science Application

Materials: Students need only pencil and paper for the writing lesson. A flip chart, notebook, or chalkboard may be needed for writing a skit or doing a storyboard. Students may work in small, cooperative groups, or individually. Teachers may divide their students to best meet their needs and abilities.

Safety: no concerns

Summary: Students of all ages will gain a greater understanding of the importance to modern society by considering what their lives would be like if plastic did not exist. Students may create a story, develop a skit, or draw a storyboard to express their thoughts.