



Lesson Plan: Integrated Waste Management, Grade 12 Living in a Sustainable World (CGR4E)

Introduction

As consumers, we can make decisions regarding the products we purchase and consume. Through their understanding of the waste hierarchy, students will begin to think about packaged products that are commonly used within the home and explore how these products move through the waste stream. Students will assess typical purchasing practices to determine the influence of packaging on consumer choices and to determine if consumers consider waste disposal and recycling when making purchasing decisions. Students will be encouraged to consider how can we change our purchasing habits to reduce waste.

Learning Objectives

1. Demonstrate an understanding of integrated waste management
2. Assess the effectiveness of the Region's waste management strategies
3. Identify and assess major influences on consumer choices and how can we change our purchasing habits to reduce waste
4. Describe ways in which individuals can contribute to the sustainable use of natural resources
5. Develop a waste questionnaire and analyze the results

Resources Provided (located in the resource folder)

- [Know Before You Throw Search Tool](#)
- [Know Before You Throw Game](#)
- Infographics:
 - How does Durham Region currently manage waste?
 - Waste hierarchy
 - What is a circular economy?

Questions

1. Why is there so much household waste?
2. What influences purchasing choices?
3. How can we use purchasing power to reduce waste?
4. How can we change our purchasing habits to reduce waste?

Activity

1. As a class, discuss why they believe there is so much household waste and what factors may influence purchasing choices.
2. Based on this discussion, choose 5 household products commonly used at home. This could include items such as bottled drinks, food items, bathroom projects, cleaning supplies and electronics.

The Regional Municipality of Durham - Waste Management Services

If this document is required in an accessible format, please contact schoolprograms@durham.ca

3. As a class, explore how these products fit into Durham Region's integrated waste management system. This is a great opportunity to introduce and use the Know Before You Throw search tool and game on the Region's website.
4. As a class, develop a questionnaire based on the 5 household items chosen above. This questionnaire should gain insight on why consumers use these products and their knowledge of how these products fit into the integrated waste management system. The questionnaire may include questions related to cost, disposal options, ease of use, availability of alternative options, etc.
5. Hypothesize from class discussion what the outcome of the questionnaire will be.
6. Each student will have at least one family member complete the questionnaire.
7. As a class, chart the results of the questionnaire and compare with class hypotheses.
8. Analyze the data to identify trends and calculate the proportions of all respondents answering each question.
9. As a class, discuss what the major influences on consumer choices and how can we change our purchasing habits to reduce waste.

Summary

As consumers, we can make decisions regarding the products we purchase and consume. Students are encouraged to continue thinking about the changes they can make to their purchasing habits to reduce their waste and incorporating these changes into their daily routines.

Curriculum Connections Expanded

The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 11 and 12: Canadian and World Studies, 2015 (revised)

Living in a Sustainable World, Grade 12, Workplace Preparation (CGR4E)

C. Sustainability and Stewardship of Natural Resources

- C1. Strategies and Stewardship Initiatives: assess the contributions of stewardship initiatives by groups and individuals to the sustainable use and management of natural resources, locally, nationally, and globally