

Plastics: Recyclable, or Not?

Grade Level: 3rd

Lesson Time: 30 min.

Objective:

- Students will recognize the role plastics play in our society and the current limits on recycling plastics.
- Students will recognize that plastics can be made from other recycled plastics.
- Students will understand the coding system for plastics

Materials:

- A variety of plastic containers
- Overhead and copies of the plastic code chart
- Plastic code analysis chart

Procedures/Steps:

1. (Anticipatory Set)- Ask the students what are some things that can be recycled. Pull out a plastic container and ask the students if this can be recycled. Pull out another plastic container and ask them again.
2. Discuss the different uses of plastic and how some plastics are more easily recycled than others. Discuss the plastic resins identification code chart (put a copy of the code up on the overhead.) Use a few of the plastic containers you just showed them to help them find the plastic code on the bottom.
3. Split the class up into five groups. Give each group a plastic code analysis chart, and identification code chart, and a bag full of assorted plastic containers. Have the groups classify the plastic containers on their chart. Could these containers be recycled?
4. Have a short discussion on Cedar City's lack of a plastic recycling program. (It all goes to the landfill.) Talk about what they could do to minimize the amount of plastic products going to the landfills.

Assessment:

Formative: Class discussion about what plastics are recyclable. Walk around between the groups and talk with them while they work.

Summative: Have the groups turn in their charts.

Reflection:

I think it would have been easier on my teacher if I had gone over a quiet procedure before, I don't think that she appreciated the "noise" very much. I also would have given more specific instructions as to how to classify the objects *as a group*, vs. everyone grabbing things from each other.