

TOPICS

Environmental awareness
Creativity
Group work
Entrepreneurship

PARTICIPANTS

Age | 15-19
Number | 15-25

DURATION

Around 60 minutes

OBSERVATIONS

Material is made of paper, fabric and cardboard, so it is largely flammable. Keep away from fire, open-flame lights or radiant heat.

Cleaning: wipe it with a dry towel.

Source: Adapted from https://www.ted.com/talks/emma_bryce_what_really_happens_to_the_plastic_you_throw_away/transcript

Recommendations: For use in Classroom, Youth Exchanges, Training Courses, Partnership Building Activities.

Follow-up: When the products are ready, the participants take pictures and put them up on display.

MATERIALS

- 10 large paper/cotton bags
- 5 pair of scissors
- 5 adhesive tape rolls
- 5 staplers
- 25 colourful markers
- 5 task cards (one for each group)

INSTRUCTIONS

Introduction

The facilitator starts by asking some introductory questions, eg. "How much rubbish do you think we produce every day?". Then he or she explains the main purpose of the activity, which is to collect all the plastic/tin foil waste that the participants used as packaging for their breakfast/lunch on a given day. After that, the participants have to work in groups to make products out of the collected waste. In order to do so, they pick a task card which tells them what they are supposed to create.

Procedure

The participants get divided into groups of 4-5. Necessary materials are distributed (1-2 big paper/cotton bags per group, a pair of scissors, adhesive tape, stapler, markers).

Next, the participants go around the venue where the activity is taking place and collect all the plastic bags, cling film, plastic bottles and tin foil that they have brought that day as packaging for their breakfast/lunch. Alternatively, a box can be placed somewhere where participants put their rubbish (for a smaller venue, the rubbish can be collected during a whole week). After that, the groups go back to their workstations, gather all the collected packaging together and pick a task card. The card tells them what they are supposed to create (eg. a carpet, a rope, a tin foil ball, an outfit, etc.). The creations should be then weighed or measured. The idea is to show how much waste is produced by the participants alone every day. At the end a TedED video "What really happens to the plastic you throw away" can be played (https://www.ted.com/talks/emma_bryce_what_really_happens_to_the_plastic_you_throw_away/transcript).

