

Consider Your Options

How does plastic play a role in everyday life?

Materials

plastic container of peanut butter
plastic container of jelly
loaf of bread in plastic bag
metal knife
1/2 gallon plastic jug of milk
empty plastic bottle that will hold 8 ounces with lid
plastic baggies
potato chips in a plastic bag
carrot sticks in a plastic bag
wax paper
metal bowl
plastic lunch bag

Procedure

1. One student make lunch to take to school. Everybody watching make a list of all the plastic items used.
2. Another student make a lunch without using plastic items.(Start with wax paper down on table and glob of peanut butter and jelly, milk in metal bowl, carrots and chips on table top). Everybody make a list of all the items used to make the lunch.

Discussion

Benefits of plastic: cleanliness, convenience, safety, lightweight, sturdy

Elaborate: look at different kinds of plastic for properties

How has technology and plastic changed the way we do things? Plastics first came into use an the 1950's. Plastics were given recycling codes in 1988. Students can research the use of plastics and discuss renewable and non-renewable resources in the context of paper or plastic. Choosing paper may not be the better option. Why?