



DALLAS ARBORETUM
Education

Garden STEM at Home
A Peek at Packaging



WE GROW MINDS, TOO.



OBJECTIVE:

KIDS WILL IDENTIFY DIFFERENT PURPOSES FOR PACKAGING, THE POSITIVES AND NEGATIVES OF CERTAIN PACKAGING, AND WHICH PACKAGING IS BIODEGRADABLE OR RECYCLABLE.

SOURCE

Project Learning Tree PreK-8 Activity Guide

BACKGROUND

Virtually everything we buy comes in some sort of package - or is shipped to the store in packaging. Packaging can be made from a wide variety of renewable and nonrenewable resources, depending on the purpose of the packaging.

Some of the earliest forms of packaging were animal skins and bladders, clay vessels and woven baskets. Early glassware, fired clay and leather were developed later, between 2500-3500 years ago. Packaging, like we know it today, began in the late 1900s with the invention of packaging machinery.

All of this packaging has to go somewhere, which has led many manufacturers and consumers to become more aware of the impact of packaging on the environment, alternatives for materials used and waste management.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Ask each kid to bring two consumer product packages from home. Ask them to bring them cleaned if needed and two try and bring two types: one that is properly or sufficiently packaged and one that is overly packaged.
2. Using the Consumer Choices student page, linked below, ask kids to work in pairs or teams to assess each package.
3. Practice completing one sample together prior to working in pairs/teams.
4. Have each team share their analysis of one item of their selection. Place particular emphasis in whether the product packaging seems adequate or if it could be altered to be better and more environmentally-sound.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Explore the Pass the Plants, Please Additional Resources Guide from PLT:
<https://www.plt.org/activity-resources/prek-8-activity-83-peek-at-packaging/>

A Vogt for the Environment by John Sailer; ISBN: 0913990345.

How Do They Package It? by George E. Sullivan; ISBN: 0664326013.