

TRAVELS OF A T-SHIRT

This activity is an example of those found on the website of the Penn State University School of Forest Science: sfr.psu.edu/youth/sftrc

The original may be found at sfr.psu.edu/youth/sftrc/lesson-plans/forestry/6-8/t-shirt.

- * Keywords: consumerism, natural resources, renewable/non-renewable resources, energy web
- * Grade Levels: 8
- * Time: 1 hour, additional time may be given for artwork
- * Setting: indoors or outdoors with writing surface

PA State Standards: Renewable/Non-renewable Resources

Teaching Method: Hands On

Subject: Science, Consumer Science, Social Studies, Art

Topic: consumerism's impact on the environment

Goals for the Lesson:

1. Recognize the natural resources used in an energy web.
2. Realize the impact of consumerism on our natural resources both past and present.
3. Identify solutions to over-consumption.

Materials Needed:

- * t-shirt
- * permanent markers
- * rough draft scrap paper
- * pencil
- * blackboard/chalk (indoors) or dry erase board/markers (outdoors)



Method/Procedure:

1. Ask students to bring in an old t-shirt from home for this lesson. If any students forget or are unable to bring in a shirt purchase a few backup shirts at a Goodwill Store or craft store.
2. Use a blackboard or dry erase board to introduce an energy web that includes: raw material, transportation, processing, manufacturing, transportation, marketing, and final sales.
3. Have students brainstorm ideas in small groups (2-3) for a t-shirt energy web.
4. Ask students to generate an illustration of a t-shirt energy web using rough draft paper.
5. Final step, have students transfer the web they've created to their t-shirt.
6. As the t-shirts are worn, students can evaluate the variety of webs from the class and determine similarities and differences.
7. The bonus of this lesson involves students acting as walking billboards for the general public. They will have the opportunity to evaluate the cost of consuming whenever the t-shirt is worn.

Evaluation:

Students will complete a manufacturing cycle for a t-shirt. The energy web will be depicted on their t-shirts.

Literature Cited:

Rivoli, Pietra (2006) *The Travels of a T-Shirt in the Global Economy: An Economist Examines the Markets, Power, and Politics of World Trade.*

Author:

Sallie Gregory, Lancaster County Conservation District

© 2010 College of Agricultural Sciences