

How was Life before Plastic?

Plastic has made its entry into the world sometime in 1907. But it has now become indispensable all over the world. We were using natural, biodegradable products/packaging few decades back. Sadly, all that has changed. It is now plastic everywhere with no proper waste management solution in sight.

For instance, we can replace plastic with biodegradable cutlery in a party/event.



Image Source: <http://www.eco-gecko.com/images/wooden-cutlery.jpg>

Lesson Plan

Talk about life without plastics when you were a child:

“When I was a child, we used to serve food on banana leaves that are completely biodegradable. We have always carried a cloth bag while shopping. Shopkeepers used to parcel every item in brown paper and we carried containers for oil/milk. Some of us used only stainless steel vessels for cooking and storing. Of late, we see the humble clay pots and pans coming back to the market.”

Objective: Reducing Plastics

Time: 45 minutes

Materials Required: Book, pencil

Classes/Grades: 1 – 12

Discuss : How did this drastic shift from a natural to synthetic choice happen?

Show : Here is an activity on up cycling in my other blog
: <https://ecorite.blogspot.in/2016/02/life-n-living-3.html>

In this activity, old trunk, pickle jars, planters were given a different avatar using a traditional art form called Madhubani.(Check out Mithila Art on Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia)

Extension of the activity

Assignment:

How have your parents/grandparents managed without the ubiquitous plastic?

This question can be asked by students to their grandparents. We can then have an interesting activity/discussion based on the responses.

Resources

There are plenty of resources available online that show the damage caused by plastics to soil, water and land.

- 1) <https://www.nrdc.org/stories/10-ways-reduce-plastic-pollution>
- 2) <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2018/07/ocean-plastic-pollution-solutions/>
- 3) <https://www.earthday.org/2018/06/08/what-you-can-do-to-end-plastic-pollution/>
- 4) <https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/uk-tackling-plastic-pollution-waste-plan/>

Please share your responses. It will generate more ideas to make the world a plastic – free world!