

TEACHER/PRESENTER NOTES

Planet-tastic Plastics? (A workshop for KS2 pupils)

OVERVIEW

This workshop was developed in 2021 for British Science Week the theme for which was Innovating for the Future, funded by the Ogden Trust.

It aims to introduce children to material properties and what is good/bad about plastics, looking at some alternatives to plastics, learning new terms and including messages about STEM careers. It enriches the Year 5 materials topic and reinforces the importance of sustainability and our responsibility to recycle or compost. There are optional experimental and follow-up activities.

It could be used as a science lesson or an enrichment activity, and is designed to be led by a teacher or other presenter (such as a STEM Ambassador). It is suitable for a class or larger group e.g. in a hall, and can be adapted to last from 30 mins to a whole afternoon. The presenter may need to adapt content to the audience, taking into account SEND or EAL provision.

SUMMARY

There are some optional (but rather fun!) practical activities in section 3 and an optional activity to record what they have learned. Without these, the workshop could be run in around 30 minutes.

The slides have useful notes for the presenter.
Some slides with instructions are hidden.

Section	Area covered	Format	Approx. timing	Slide numbers
	Risk assessment & curriculum links			Slides 1-3
1	Introduction and properties	Presentation, discussion, demonstration	12 mins	Slides 4-9
2	The problem with plastic	Presentation & group discussion	8 mins	Slides 10-12
3	Alternatives to plastic	Presentation, film, optional practical activities	Up to 30 mins	Slides 13-18
4	Working in Science	Group discussion, presentation	8 mins	Slides 19-22
5	Optional recording activity as follow-up	Making a 'zine'	approx. 60 mins	Slides 23-27
6	Summary – what have we learned?	Presentation/discussion	3-5 mins	Slides 28-30

The cellulose can be purchased from <https://www.eco-craft.co.uk> and the packing chips from <https://wellpackeurope.com/loose-fills-void-fill>

For information about STEM Ambassadors visit <https://www.stem.org.uk/stem-ambassadors/schools-and-colleges>

Please contact Christina Astin if you have any questions: christina@astinconsulting.com

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