ACTIVITY 2: Identifying Plastic for Recycling

Activity Objective: Identify and label various types of plastic that will potentially be recycled

Definition In order to meet recyclers' needs while providing manufacturers a consistent, uniform system, a coding system was developed as shown in Table 1 below. The recycling code for plastics was introduced in 1988 by the plastics industry through the Society of the Plastics Industry. Due to the fact that municipal recycling programs traditionally have targeted packaging with bottles and containers; the resin coding system offered a way of identifying the resin content of bottles and containers commonly found in the residential waste stream.

REVIEW VIDEO: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=29Az-dPwtg8&list=PLDE5A69832ECC4D26

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BaAnfy9ueeQ

Three R's (animated) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8uea7SLg6cQ

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Rating: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6BkcviD65Bo

Materials: Chapter 4, paper, computer, printer, Internet Access, different plastic containers and components

Procedure

1. Work as partners or small teams
2. Research Chapter 4 on recycling and identifying plastic.
3. Locate several different types of plastic containers, bottles, and other components
4. Using table 1 identify and label the plastic containers
5. In the first column of Table 2 identify the plastic part or container
6. In the second column identify the type of plastic
7. In the third column, state if this part can be reused, repurposed or recycled or all three.

Symbol	Name	Sample Uses
	Polyethylene terephthalate (PET or PETE)	beverage bottles, cups
	High-density polyethylene (HDPE)	bottles, cups, milk jugs
	Polyvinyl chloride (PVC)	pipes, siding, flooring
	Low-density polyethylene (LDPE)	plastic bags, six-pack rings, tubing
	Polypropylene (PP)	auto parts, industrial fibers, food containers
	Polystyrene (PS)	plastic utensils, Styrofoam, cafeteria trays
	Other plastics, such as acrylic, nylon, polycarbonate and polylactic acid (PLA)	Bottles, plastic lumber applications, headlight lenses, and safety shields/glasses Number 7 plastics have traditionally not been recycled

Table 1 Plastic Identification Chart

Plastic Container	Name	Reuse, Repurpose or Recycle

Table 2 Plastic Identified

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4 World-Class Learner	3 Proficient Learner	2 Developing Learner	1 Emergent Learner
Learner at this level has gone beyond mastery of knowledge, skills, & attitudes described in project. World-class learner consistently exhibits high-quality performance.	Learner at this level has had opportunities to apply knowledge, skills, & attitudes of component of project. Proficient learner has mastered essential attributes, thus proving mastery.	Learner at this level has been exposed to & had opportunity to apply knowledge, skills, & attitudes of project. Developing learner may have only a few essential attributes to master before mastery.	Learner at this level may or may not have been exposed to knowledge, skills, & attitudes required by academic standards of the project.

1= Emergent Learner

2 = Developing Learner

3 = Proficient Learner

4 = World-Class Learner