

Understanding Packaging and Plastics

* Discuss with your students the number of plastic bags they get when they are out shopping.
* Ask them if they ever take old plastic bags out with them if they are going shopping, if not why not.
* Ask them to design a reusable shopping bag that will be attractive to their age group.
* They will design their bag and prepare a sales pitch to encourage people to use them instead of taking new plastic ones from the shops.
* They should think of the most suitable material, create an eye-catching design or memorable message and add any additional ideas or features which might make the bag more useful or more attractive.
* They should draw their designs and label any special features.
* Students will then prepare a prototype and a pitch to encourage their peers to choose your bag.
* Allow students time to pitch their designs to each other. They could vote to find the most popular design.
* Ask the students what they could do to encourage more shops to reduce packaging or the number of plastic bags they use? Think about writing letters, joining campaigns and asking shops about their environmental policies.
* Task the students to search the internet to find a local/ national campaign to encourage reduction in packaging and/or plastic bag usage (remember to suggest to sign the Plastic Promise https://www.liveherelovehere.org/cgi-bin/PlasticPromise)