



# GROCERY STORE ..... SCAVENGER HUNT

## Grade level

Intermediate (3-6)

## Subjects

Social studies

## Teaching Time

Week 1: 15 minutes

Week 2: 1 hour

## Skills

Gathering, interpreting, and presenting data.

## Materials

Copies of "Grocery Store Scavenger Hunt" sheet (see second page).

## OBJECTIVES

Students will understand how they and their families can make buying choices that help reduce the waste stream. Students will discover packaging choices available for grocery products by researching a local store's groceries, and then sharing their lists of items that have the least wasteful packaging.

## PROCEDURE

1. Explain to students that for homework they will be conducting a survey of 5 grocery store products and packaging. Packaging is a major solid waste problem; 40% of household waste consists of packaging, and up to 5-10% of the price of an item is for packaging. By changing a person's buying choices, the waste stream could be reduced dramatically. Allow one week for this activity.
2. Have students choose 5 products and complete the "Grocery Store Scavenger Hunt" chart for each. (At least 2 products that are packaged in more than one way - cheese in blocks, individually wrapped cheeses - should be chosen.)
3. Next week: As a class, discuss the scavenger hunt results and how the students' buying choices might be different now. Make a class list of the wisest buying choices and make copies for students to take home.

## SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURE

Have students find four products available in recyclable packaging and two products with minimal packaging. Have them and a parent complete the "Grocery Store Scavenger Hunt" page. Do Procedure 3.

## EXTENSION

Have students interview grocery store or fast food restaurant managers and write a report on the existing and planned waste reduction efforts of the store.

## PRE & POST DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How can you and your family change your buying habits to reduce the amount of packaging you throw away?
- How can we change the types of packaging that are used on the products we buy?
- What might influence businesses to take into account the waste disposal and environmental problems from all the packaging?

# SCAVENGER HUNT

PRODUCT SURVEY					
PRODUCT NAME	1:	2:	3:	4:	5:
Is the packaging recyclable? .....					
Is the packaging made from recycled materials? .....					
Is the packaging reusable? .....					
Is the packaging necessary? .....					
Is the product available in several types of packaging? .....					
What other types of packaging does this product come in? .....					
How could the packaging be improved?					