

Fast Food Conservation Project

(based on Fast Food Investigation Lab from week 6 reader)

Goals: Increase student awareness of consumable materials from everyday life; encourage students to make responsible choices regarding packaging choices to help protect the Earth.

Objective: Students will create a tri-fold or poster showing the packaging from a fast food kid's meal.

Directions:

Choose a fast food restaurant to order a kid's meal. Ideally, students will choose various restaurants so we can compare the packaging as a class.

Order the kid's meal, and eat it!

Save ALL packaging from the meal (even straws, straw wrappers, milk bottle seals, and condiment packages). Clean the packaging the best you can. For example, if you ordered a milk, rinse out the milk jug with water and let it dry. If you got chicken strips, brush out the leftover crumbs from the box. If your kid's meal comes with a toy, save the packaging and papers from that (you can keep the actual toy part for yourself OR you can attach it to your poster; your choice!). Be sure to save the bag or box your meal came in, too.

Glue or attach ALL of your packaging to a tri-fold display or a piece of posterboard to make a poster.

Don't forget to include the name of the restaurant your kid's meal came from! Come up with and include a title for your poster/board and written labels for your packaging materials (e.g., "Plastic straw", "Cardboard box", "Paper hamburger wrapper").

Finally, look up how long it takes for each type of packaging to decompose; for example, it takes up to 200 years for a plastic straw to decompose. Include this information on your poster/board.

Poster is due **Wednesday, January 20**. Students will present their poster/boards to the class during Science.

(see back for alternate project option if you don't want to purchase a kid's meal)

Alternate Project:

If you'd rather not purchase a fast food kid's meal, you may collect food packaging items from your house instead. Examples: styrofoam cup, tin can, plastic straw, milk carton, plastic bag, aluminum foil or can, paper towel, chip bag. Students must include SIX items on their poster/board. Feel free to get creative with choosing food packaging-related items. Follow the same instructions as above to create your poster/board, substituting the household items for the fast food packaging.