

It's a Wrap!



Target Level:
Grade 2

SOLS:

Science: 2.1, 2.8

English: 2.2, 2.3, 2.8

Materials Needed:

Art supplies

Optional: relaxing tape
of forest or stream
environment sounds

Time Needed:

One class period

Optional: lunch period

Summary

Students develop creative ways to wrap presents using reusable or recyclable materials.

Objectives

Students will realize the amount of resources and money that go into wrapping paper and devise a way to wrap a gift using reusable or recyclable materials.

Background

“Americans throw away 25% more trash during the Thanksgiving to New Year’s holiday period than any other time of year. The extra waste amounts to 25 million tons of garbage, or about 1 million extra tons per week.” (www.cygnus-group.com)

A large portion of this extra waste is giftwrap. In today’s society, it is very easy and not very expensive to find all sorts of wrapping paper, making it very easy to use it once and then throw it away.

However, there are many ways to reuse items to make attractive gift wrap, to use “gifts” as wraps or ways to make the gift so attractive that it doesn’t need a wrapping. Some of the common examples are wrapping baby gifts in a receiving blanket, wrapping wedding gifts in a tablecloth, using the comics to wrap birthday and Christmas gifts, using a pillow case or cloth grocery bags as the wrapping and the list goes on. But what other ways are there to wrap gifts? Teens are very creative and imaginative and can come up with great ideas.

Preparation

If using the scenario cards, photocopy and laminate for durability and reuse and then cut apart.

Activity

1. Discuss an upcoming holiday or gift giving occasion, maybe someone’s birthday, Christmas, Hanukah, a wedding or other event. Ask about gifts that might be given and then discuss how the gift would be wrapped. Most students will say gift wrap or gift bags.
2. Discuss reusing wrapping paper or gift bags. Does your family do that? What are the advantages? The disadvantages?
3. Discuss alternatives to traditional gift wrap. What about other ways to wrap the gift? Have you ever received a gift that was wrapped in something other than paper giftwrap? What was the gift and the wrapping?
4. Break the students into groups of 3 or 4 and pass out the scenario cards. Give the students time to discuss the scenario and discuss the wrapping.
5. The next class period, allow the individual groups to wrap the gift. If time permits, have a sharing time, if not, use the next class period for students to share their ideas with others.

Scenarios for It's a Wrap:

Your sister has been living at home while attending college. Now that she has graduated and has her first job, she is moving into her first apartment in the city

Your aunt is expecting her first baby and you have bought the cutest little outfit for the new baby and a stuffed Pooh bear. Now, how do you wrap this gift without using wrapping paper or a gift bag?

Your older brother is graduating from high school and plans on starting college in a few weeks. At school, he will be living in the dorm. You need to decide on a gift and how to wrap it creatively.

It is your friend's birthday and you have bought her a sweater. You know that your friend is into the environment and has said that she would never use wrapping paper again. How will you wrap her gift?