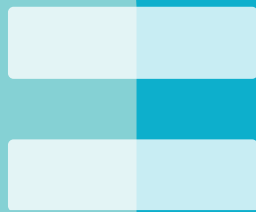




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Classroom Resource



Pass the Parcel



Investigation

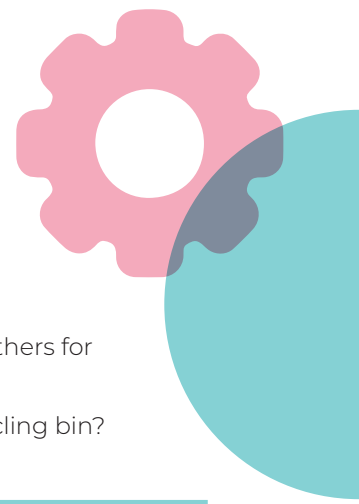
Pass the Parcel

Class Level - Junior

Curriculum Links

Strand:	Materials; Environmental Awareness and Care
Strand Unit:	Properties and characteristics of materials; Caring for my locality
Curriculum Objectives:	Observe and investigate a range of familiar materials in the immediate environment; Describe and compare materials, noting the differences in the colour, shape, and texture; Group materials according to certain criteria: strength, colour, texture, flexibility; Begin to distinguish between natural and manufactured materials: Develop a sense of responsibility for taking care of and improving the environment
Skills Development:	Questioning, Observing, Analysing (Sorting And Classifying), Recording, Communicating
New words/vocabulary:	Sort, category, rough/ smooth, hard/soft, shiny/dull, scratchy/slippery, stiff/flexible (bendy), stretchy, fluffy, compostable, recycle, reuse. Posters could be a useful backup for this exercise
Focail nua:	Cuir thart an beart (Pass the parcel); Ábhair (Materials); Clúdaigh (Wrap)
Cross curricular links:	Maths, Language skills
Equipment/materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Variety of different kinds of materials for wrapping up a small parcel (e.g. newspaper, kitchen paper, tissue paper, bubble wrap, plastic, shiny wrapping paper, different fabric materials e.g. cotton, velvet, sandpaper) in a variety of shapes and including some materials that can be recycled and other materials that cannot Sticky tape, scissors Category cards - one to be placed within each layer of packaging. The teacher can decide on which categories based on the ability level of the class, e.g. colour, uses, texture, absorbent or waterproof, natural or manmade, strength etc Source of music Hula hoops





Engage

Prompt questions

- What materials can we use to wrap a present?
- What words can we use to describe materials?
- Do all materials look/feel the same?
- Are some materials better than others for wrapping a present?
- Can all materials go into the recycling bin?

Background information:

Materials can be grouped and described in many different ways, e.g. colour, shape, texture, natural or manmade, according to their uses, whether flexible or rigid, hard or soft, scratchy, etc. This activity will introduce learners to ways of describing, sorting, categorising and comparing materials.

Real-world application

Many of the materials that we use every day can be recycled. Some packaging made up of different material layers pose a bigger challenge such as Tetrapak containers and Pringles tubes.

Can learners identify this type of packaging containing material layers? Learners should be encouraged throughout the activity to look carefully at the different materials (through a hand lens if available), to observe and explore the materials using all their senses.

Senior classes may wish to research how many times materials can be recycled. For instance, aluminium, used for soft drink cans can be recycled an unlimited number of times, but materials like plastic lose their quality the more they are recycled and as a result, the majority of plastics only get recycled once. Which options are most sustainable?



Investigate

Starter question

Can we sort the different materials that are used to wrap this parcel in different ways (e.g. by colour, shape, texture, etc.)?

Conducting the investigation

Preparation in advance: Wrap up the 'prize' in lots of layers using different materials each time. In-between each layer, insert one of the category cards.

- The learners sit in a circle and pass the parcel around while music plays. When the music stops, the learner, who is holding the parcel unwraps one layer of material, finds the category card, and has to describe the layer of material. The learner should be encouraged to observe and explore the material. The packaging should be kept to one side for part two of the activity.
- When the parcel has been completely unwrapped, the group can begin sorting the packaging materials into different categories. Start by using three hula hoops and place one category card in each hula hoop. Decide as a group on the categories to use to sort the materials.
- Change the categories in the hula hoops and continue as before. The learners can examine materials to sort them by how the material can be used (e.g. in clothing, cleaning etc.). The teacher should introduce how some materials can be recycled (placed in the classroom recycling bin) or composted to link with environmental awareness and care.
- At the end of the activity, the learners should decide on what to do with each of the materials (i.e. which should be kept for arts and crafts, reused in another activity, or placed in the recycling bin or compost bin).

Sharing data/results

Learners can record and share the data in a number of ways, including photos, posters, and graphs.



Take the Next Step

Adapt for home:

Learners can use a wide variety of materials found around the home for this activity.

Follow-up challenge/project/citizen science link:

Learners can examine the wrapping materials used during this activity and explore ideas to reuse the materials to create something useful e.g. reuse wrapping paper in arts and crafts.

Category cards – examples. These could also include images for each category.

Smooth	Rough	Shiny	Dull
Blue	Red	Stiff	Flexible
White	Black	Can be recycled	Cannot be recycled
Can reuse	Cannot reuse	Soft	Hard
Stretchy	Not stretchy	Circle	Triangle
Can be used for wrapping presents	Can be used to make clothes	Can be used to clean up a spill	Compostable
Natural	Manmade (manufactured)	Square	Rectangle



