

## PASS THE PACKAGING

This package needs to be premade so it has a surprise inside and has facts or waste reduction tips on each layer. Many items we purchase have layers of unnecessary packaging, most of which are not reusable or recyclable and can be very harmful for our environment when discarded.

### Objective

To demonstrate the amount of unnecessary packaging on products and to educate students on the impacts of packaging, the importance of reusing and how to be a 'greener' consumer.

### Materials

- Packaging layers: cardboard, paper wrap, styrofoam ball, plastic bags, foam wrapping, bubble wrap, clam shells
- Eco prize: reusable mug, reusable water bottle, cloth bag, etc.
- Radio or CD player (optional, or have the children sing, or just pass until you say stop)

### Directions

1. Wrap a prize, such as a reusable mug, water bottle, or cloth bag in many layers of packaging. Include a dramatic fact on each layer of packaging about that type of packaging, e.g. facts about plastic bags, styrofoam, paper wrap, etc.
2. Ask the participants to sit or stand in a circle and pass the packaging around the circle until the music stops (or when you say stop).
3. Whoever is holding the packaging when the music stops will unwrap a layer and read the fact on that layer out loud.
4. As the package is unwrapped, pile the packaging in the center of the circle so it becomes really obvious how unnecessary the amount of packaging is.
5. Ask some of the following questions while the package is being passed around the circle or as a wrap up:
  - Are any of these forms of packaging recyclable?
  - With what products would you typically find some of this packaging?
  - Once the product is opened, where would the packaging end up? Garbage? Landfill? Recycling bin?
  - What can be done with the extra packaging? (*reused for crafts, bring back to manufacturer*)
  - How can you prevent excess packaging in the future? (*buy in bulk, look for items with less or recyclable packaging, call the manufacturer to express your concerns, reuse plastic bags, bring a cloth bag or backpack for shopping*)

([http://www.ecosuperior.org/upload/documents/waste-reduction\\_classroom-activities.pdf](http://www.ecosuperior.org/upload/documents/waste-reduction_classroom-activities.pdf))