



**TSOYS PROJECTS GET  
PEOPLE THINKING, TALKING  
AND MAKING CHANGES.**



# LESSON PLAN

**Class level:** Lesson plan suitable for all secondary levels.

**Subjects:** Geography, Science, Art, CSPE, Engineering, and TY subjects such as Environmental Science, Social Science and Film Studies.

**Competition deadline:** Friday, 8th March 2019.

## LESSON OVERVIEW

This lesson challenges students to investigate the life cycle of their everyday 'stuff' – things they use on a daily basis such as toothbrushes, school bags and mobile phones. They will be asked to explore the countries of origin of the items they use, to research the raw materials and processes used in their manufacture, analyse how each item got to Ireland and uncover what happens to it when it is no longer of use or needed.

The ultimate aim of the competition is that the students, and by extension their classmates, teachers, friends and family, will become more aware of their environment and make everyday choices in their lives to have a positive impact on the planet.

## OBJECTIVES

**Students will:**

- Discover where the items they use come from.
- Explore the places where the items they choose come from.
- Research raw materials and manufacturing processes used in the making of their items and the impact of this on the environment.
- Explore how the items get to Ireland.
- Determine the life duration of the item they choose.
- Look at the disposal methods of the item after use.
- Consider the life-cycle of everyday items, the circular economy and the importance of recycling.
- Become more aware of the environmental impact of their everyday choices/behaviours.

## LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Ask students to list the items they use during a typical day.
- Invite them to choose one item to research and focus on.
- Encourage them to explore how the item is made, what raw materials are used to make it and where it is made.
- Examine whether the raw materials used come from renewable or non-renewable resources.
- Research the possible environmental impacts of using these raw materials.
- Research the possible impacts on the environment of transporting the item to Ireland.
- Evaluate the cost of the item versus the amount of energy and resources required to make it.
- Discuss how the item is used in everyday life and how long it is used for.
- Consider the options for disposing of the item after use and the impacts of sending waste to landfill versus recycling.
- Discuss more environmentally friendly alternatives to the item and/or what the item could be turned into if it was recycled.
- Encourage students to make one environmentally positive change in their everyday lives.

**VISIT [WWW.THESTORYOFYOURSTUFF.IE](http://WWW.THESTORYOFYOURSTUFF.IE)  
AND [WWW.IRELANDSENvironment.IE](http://WWW.IRELANDSENvironment.IE)  
FOR MORE RESOURCES.**





**BE PART OF THE SOLUTION, NOT THE POLLUTION. ENTER TSOYS.**

## ASSESSMENT

- Teacher observation and questioning based on the content of the lesson.
- Work samples and evidence of research.



## LINKING TO CURRICULUM SUBJECTS

### Geography

- Exploring the countries of origin of everyday things we use.

### CSPE

- Becoming aware of the environmental impact of the consumer choices we make everyday.
- Questioning our need for, and use of, certain consumables.
- Assessing our personal responsibility to make positive environmental choices.

### Art

- Using creative mediums such as drawing, photography and digital design to share the life cycle of an object.

### Engineering

- Exploring the manufacturing processes behind everyday objects, and their impact on our environment.
- Researching environmentally friendly manufacturing methods.

## RESOURCES

### Websites

[www.thestoryofyourstuff.ie](http://www.thestoryofyourstuff.ie)  
[www.irelandsenvironment.ie](http://www.irelandsenvironment.ie)

### Examples of Everyday Items

- Clothing (check labels for country of origin)
- Toothbrush
- Plastic water bottles / straws
- Football
- Aluminum cans
- Hair gel
- Cosmetics
- School bag or hand bag

### Materials & Equipment

- Art materials
- iPad/Smart phone/Computer
- Whiteboard
- Camera



## ACT NOW, ENTER NOW

Using the research and learnings from this lesson, invite students to prepare an entry for TSOYS. The competition gives students the opportunity to use their creative talents to highlight the importance to everyone of safeguarding Ireland's environment. Remember: you must submit the entry on their behalf.

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