

INSTRUCTOR'S MANUAL

RESCUE ME! MOTHER EARTH CALLS 911: THE ENVIRONMENTAL BASICS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----|
| Tips for Teaching ARISE Life-Management Skills..... | 2 |
| SECTION ONE | |
| Introduction..... | 5 |
| Environmental Facts of Life..... | 6 |
| Styrofoam®..... | 11 |
| Batteries..... | 14 |
| Review Activity..... | 17 |
| SECTION TWO | |
| Introduction..... | 18 |
| Pre-cycling..... | 19 |
| Enviro-Shopping..... | 22 |
| Recycling..... | 26 |
| Review Activity..... | 31 |
| LEARNER'S WORKSHEETS | |
| Section 1..... | 33 |
| Quiz..... | 54 |
| Section 2..... | 55 |
| Quiz..... | 81 |
| Assessment..... | 82 |
| Answer Key..... | 84 |

STYROFOAM®

MADE OF PLASTIC

Worksheet: *Page 44*

Learner's Workbook: *Page 14*

1. Divide participants into groups of four or five. Ask them to list things made of plastic on workbook page 14. When they have finished, ask each group for its responses and list their answers where everyone can see.
2. Ask learners why they think so many things are made of plastic. Inform them plastic is cheap and disposable; we can throw it away after using it once. Years ago, people used glass instead. Today, many states recycle glass soda bottles. Some plastic is recycled, but much of it goes to the dump or incinerator. For this reason, glass is better for the environment.

Ask for learners' opinions on the following:

Did You Know...?

All the styrofoam cups made in one day would stretch across the United States!

INSTEAD OF STYROFOAM

Worksheet: *Page 45*

Learner's Workbook: *Page 15*

1. Of all plastics, the one recycled the least is *polystyrene* or *Styrofoam*. Ask volunteers to name things made of Styrofoam. Answers can include: *containers, trays, cups found in fast-food restaurants, egg crates, produce trays in supermarkets, and packing "popcorn" at shipping companies*. Inform learners how Styrofoam sits in landfills and never breaks down. If it goes to an incinerator to be burned, it releases harmful chemicals into the air we breathe. Styrofoam tossed into waterways kills fish, birds, and turtles who mistake it for food and eat it.
2. On workbook page 15, let everyone list replacements for Styrofoam next to each product.

STYROFOAM'S® FATE (VOWEL SEARCH)

Worksheet: *Page 46*

Learner's Workbook: *Page 16*

1. Now that everyone has named items made of this material, challenge each person to fill in the blanks on workbook page 16.
2. Review answers together. (*Answers are on page 84 of this manual.*)

WRITE A LETTER

Worksheet: *None*

1. Help everyone research which supermarkets are using Styrofoam packaging for fruits and vegetables.
2. Then, have them send the managers letters asking them to sell produce loose or in paper containers. It should detail their concerns about the impact of Styrofoam on the environment. Share letters as a group and then, follow through by mailing them.

STYROFOAM STORY

Worksheet: *None*

1. Have learners write a "Styrofoam Story" about someone who carelessly tosses a Styrofoam product into a river. Make sure they explain what can happen to the environment and animals in that river.
2. Talk about the stories together.

RECYCLE IT BULLETIN BOARD

Worksheet: *None*

1. Challenge participants to come up with recycling projects for Styrofoam containers. For example, Styrofoam cups make good paste or paint containers in the art room; egg cartons make good desk organizers or holiday decorations.
2. Direct everyone to create a bulletin board with their ideas. If possible, use these ideas in your classroom to set an example.

STYROFOAM® ART

Worksheet: *None*

1. Help learners use Styrofoam packages for printmaking. Have them plan their design and cut it into the piece of styrofoam with a sharp pencil or cutting tool.
2. Show them how to spread printing ink onto a flat surface and then, roll the cut Styrofoam surface in the ink.
3. Have them place a piece of paper onto the painted surface and smooth it with their hands or a clean roller, applying pressure evenly.
4. Peel off the paper and let the picture dry. Hang them around the classroom for all to enjoy.

STYROFOAM SECRET CODE

Worksheet: *Page 47*

Learner's Workbook: *Page 17*

1. Have each person solve the puzzle on workbook page 17.
2. Then, share the answer. (*Answer is on page 84 of this manual.*)

WRAP-UP: STYROFOAM TIPS

Worksheet: *Page 48*

Learner's Workbook: *Page 18*

1. Review the tips on workbook page 18. Then, have everyone name one Styrofoam product and a replacement for it.

MADE OF PLASTIC

List all the things you can think of that are made from plastic. For these purposes, don't worry about spelling and grammar. Just do the best you can.

INSTEAD OF STYROFOAM®

List alternatives to Styrofoam next to each product.

STYROFOAM ITEM

HEALTHY ALTERNATIVE

Styrofoam cups

Styrofoam plates

Fast-food packaging

Packing popcorn

Styrofoam egg cartons

Styrofoam fruit trays



STYROFOAM'S® FATE VOWEL SEARCH

Styrofoam, a form of pl_st_c, may remain in landfills for 100 years or more. D_ng_r_s when incinerated, it mixes with other materials and gives off poisons unsafe for all living creatures. Sea life, t_rtl_s, birds, and fish think it's food, eat it, become sick and die.

Smart p__pl_ avoid Styrofoam plastics. They use plates, cups, and _t_ns_ls that can be washed and used again. They say “No” to h_mb_rg_rs or fast food served in Styrofoam, and ask for tissue-wrapped foods instead.

Vowel Bank

a (3): a, a, a

e (6): e, e, e, e, e, e

i (2): i, i

o (2): o, o

u (4): u, u, u, u



STYROFOAM® SECRET CODE

Use clues below to crack the secret code. For example, ✌ stands for A, 🖐 stands for B.
 🖐✌☆ would represent the word “day.”

✌ 🖐 🖕 🖞 🖏 🖑 🖒 🖓 🖔 🖕 🖖 🖗 🖘 🖙 🖚 🖛
 A B C D E F G H I J K L

💣 ☠ 🚩 🚪 ✈ ☀ 💧 ❄ ☪ ☩ ☪
 M N O P Q R S T U V W

☒ ☆ ☾
 X Y Z

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☠ 🚩 ❄ 🖏 🖏 🖕 ✌ ☆ ✌ ☠ 🖏 🖏 ✌ ☠ 💧 ❄ ✌ ☆ 🖐 ☠

☹ ✌ ☠ 🖏 🖏 🖐 ☹ ☹ 💧 🖏 🚩 ☀ ☆ 🖏 ✌ ☀ 💧

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TIPS FOR THE DAY



Styrofoam®

1. Use paper or glass plates and cups; they're safer for the environment and can be used more than once, too.
2. Never throw Styrofoam products into rivers, streams, or other waterways. Animals that live there, such as birds, fish, and turtles, confuse it for food, choke on it, and die.
3. Encourage your family to select loose fruits and vegetables when shopping at the supermarket; reject Styrofoam-packed items.
4. Ask managers of local fast-food restaurants to use paper or cardboard to package foods if they are not already doing so.