

Small Bag Bust



Learning Objective: To help students learn to reduce waste by buying products in large packages instead of single serving packages.

Subjects: Social Studies, Environmental Education, Family and Consumer Education

Wisconsin Model Academic Standards: SS E.4.10, EE A.4.1, A.4.3, C.4.1, D.4.5, E.4.2, FCE A.2

Grades: K-3

Materials: large bag of potato chips, same quantity of potato chips in single serving packages, two trays

Procedure:

1. Buy a large bag of potato chips and the same quantity of chips in single serving packages. Note what each costs, and make a chart similar to the one below.
2. In class, place the large bag on one side of a table and the small bags (including all of their packaging) on the other. Ask your students: Which side of the table do you think has the most potato chips?
3. Next, empty the contents of the large bag onto one tray and the contents of the small bags onto another. Place their respective packaging in two separate piles. Ask: Which tray has the most chips? Which pile has the most packaging?

For older students:

4. Tell your students what you paid for each package of chips and what the chips cost per ounce for each tray of chips.
5. Lead a discussion on packaging based on your potato chip example. Talk about the merits of buying in bulk versus single serving packages. Ask your students to make a list of ways to reduce packaging with snacks and lunches.
6. Finally, divide up the chips and eat them!



TYPE OF PACKAGE	SIZE	PRICE	COST PER POUND
bag of potato chips	12 oz	\$3.19	\$4.25/lb
multi-pack chips	24 oz	\$8.49	\$5.66/lb

Source: Pick and Save, Oconomowoc, WI July 2007



REDUCE PACKAGING WITH SNACKS AND LUNCHES

GOING BEYOND

1. Bring in other examples of bulk versus single serving packages. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of each.
2. Encourage your students to investigate ways that they can reduce waste, reuse things and recycle at home.

