NEWS BREAK

Article:    Candy makers grapple with mounds of plastic trash

Section:   MAIN, A10

Sunday’s News Break selects an article from Sunday, October 30, 2022 of The Seattle Times print replica for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions.

You are encouraged to modify this lesson to fit the needs of your students. For example, some teachers might use this as a take-home assignment and others might read and answer the questions in a small group or larger, class discussion.

*Please be sure to preview all NIE content before using it in your classroom to ensure it is appropriate for your students.*

Standards:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.1

- Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.2

- Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.

Objectives:

Students will discuss the amount of candy consumed in America on Halloween. They will also discuss expensive recycling programs for plastic wrappers and why it's ineffective. Students will brainstorm ideas that are both more affordable and sustainable.
**Pre-Reading Discussion:**

- What do you think the article will be about, using only this picture?
- Are there any clues?
- What can you infer?

**Vocabulary Building:**

Read this sentence, what do you think the highlighted words mean using context clues? A context clue is a word or words that are hints and refers to the sources of information outside of words that readers may use to predict the identities and meanings of unknown words.

“The onus cannot be on the customer to fix the massive plastic waste problem,” she said.

**Onus Guess:**

**Onus Definition:**

**Comprehension Questions:**

1. Halloween treats have a tricky problem. What is it?
2. As America loads up on an estimated 600 million pounds of candy for Halloween, a handful of companies are trying to make it easier to ___________ all those wrappers.
3. Since the beginning of October, Mars — the maker of Snickers and M&Ms — has distributed 17,400 candy waste collection bags to U.S. consumers through its website and at community events. What makes these bags different?
4. The bags fit around 4 ounces of material; if all 17,400 are returned, that would equal more than ____ tons of recycled wrappers.
5. Plastic wrappers are ideal for candy for lots of reasons. Why?
6. But plastic wrappers are a challenge for recycling companies. Why?
7. As a result, a lot of plastic packaging ends up where?
8. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, containers and packaging made up _____% of trash going into landfills in 2018.
9. That’s why it’s critical to have food companies or individual consumers funding what?
10. In the U.S., the company will ship boxes to consumers to collect candy and snack wrappers and return them for recycling. A small box is $_____; a large one is $_______. TerraCycle said that covers the cost of shipping and the multipart recycling process.
11. Szaky said TerraCycle has recycled about _____ million candy wrappers worldwide since 2014.
12. She liked raising awareness about the problem and supporting TerraCycle, but she hasn’t done it again because the box was what?

Discussion Questions (small/large groups), Journal Prompts or Essay Questions:

- What surprised (or stood out to) you in the article?
- At first, I thought ____________, but now I think ____________?
- What things did you already know from prior experience?

As America loads up on an estimated 600 million pounds of candy for Halloween. Did this number surprise you? Why or why not?

“This is not a cost-effective solution for most families, when the items can simply be thrown into a trash container to be picked up for free,” she said. This year, she ordered a free bag from Mars, so that she can send a message that consumers care about plastic waste and want companies to switch to sustainable packaging. “The onus cannot be on the customer to fix the massive plastic waste problem,” she said. “The solution is system change.”

- Why do you think recycling wrappers is so expensive?
- Do you have any ideas for recycling that would be cheaper and more sustainable?

News Break is posted to the Web on Monday. Please share this NIE News Break program with other teachers. To sign-up for the print replica for your class, please register online or call 206/652-6290 or toll-free 1-888/775-2655. Copyright © 2022 The Seattle Times Company