

Mission

STEMCAP:



“Don’t Overconsume, Keep the World in Bloom”

Decker Lake Youth Center
Summer 2020

“Don’t Overconsume, Keep the World in Bloom”

Day 2: *The Story of Stuff* Film Discussion

Today's Goals: Recognize and discuss problems and solutions relating to overconsumption that are presented in *The Story of Stuff*.

1. What are the top 3-5 things that stuck with you from *The Story of Stuff*?

2. What is the problem with a linear system of consumption? Why?

3. What are some examples of items that have a big hidden impact?

Discussion Questions:

- 1. What is your reaction to these animations? Were you surprised? Sad? Inspired to act? Were there any scenes that made you feel particularly invested in making some kind of change? Why?**
- 2. Why do you think so many of the environmental and social costs of the products we use are hidden or not talked about?**
- 3. What are some solutions we can work toward as we learn more about the issue of overconsumption?**

Tomorrow you will meet a local scientist, Sally, who studies microplastic pollution in Utah Valley's water, soil and air. Think of a question to ask Sally about overconsumption, plastic pollution, or what it's like being a scientist studying major environmental issues like this:

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Day 3: Science Right Now – How Microplastics affect Utah Environments

Today's Guest: Scientist Sally

Today's Goal: Learn about the ways that plastic gets broken down and released into the environment as well as the affects that plastic can have on ecosystem and human health.

1. How does Sally study microplastics in soil, water and air?

2. How is plastic pollution a symptom of overconsumption?

Discussion Question:

- 1. How can we use the problem-solving processes of science to find solutions to things going on in our own lives that we might not think of as scientific problems?**
- 2. Does Sally's work make you think differently about plastic? What are some ways people can reduce the amount of plastic that gets into our local ecosystems?**

Tomorrow you will meet Kaycee from an organization called Clever Octopus. Kaycee's organization helps teach people about overconsumption through art and works with different groups to make artwork out of donated items and other things that would otherwise go to waste. Think of a question to ask Kaycee about her organization or the role of art in helping people understand environmental issues:

Day 4: Art/Science – Creative Reuse in Art to Reduce Overconsumption

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Today's Guest: Kaycee from Clever Octopus

Today's Goal: Understand the role of art in communicating about overconsumption to a large and diverse audience and understand the role that creative reuse can play in lower consumption of resources.

- 1. What are some ways that the work of artists and scientists is similar?**
- 2. What is the goal of Clever Octopus?**
- 3. How might art reach a different audience than a science program?**

Discussion Questions:

- 1. What are some ways that clever octopus tries to combat overconsumption and waste issues right here in Salt Lake?**
- 2. How might creative reuse art be more accessible to people than more traditional forms of art?**
- 3. Can you think of a craft you could do using items you typically think of as trash or junk? What are some things you can think of that are not recyclable and hard to reuse for their original purpose that could be reused for other purposes instead?**

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Day 5: CorRESPONDence – Letter Writing

Today's Guest: Ms. Bonnie

Today's Goals: Write a letter to a non-profit organization to express your concerns about overconsumption and learn more about what they are doing to prevent it.

1. What is a non-profit organization?

1. When you write your letter and when record your personal audio response, you will use a moniker (or fake name). Example: "Bobby Pin." Brainstorm some possible monikers:

2. Which organization did you write to and what is the main thing you wanted them to know or you wanted them to tell you?

Discussion Questions:

- 1. Working for a non-profit organization is one way you can have a job that works toward preventing environmental issues like overconsumption, what other kind of job do you imagine you could have that could help stop or mitigate overconsumption issues?**
- 2. What are some other groups or people you could write to in the future as a way to contribute to the fight against overconsumption?**

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Day 8: Audio Recording Session 2
Today's Guests: Suzi, Sheri, and Jiovani

Goal: Finish your podcasts and reflect on Mission STEMCAP.

Discussion Question:

- 1. Why is communicating with others important in the fight against overconsumption?**
- 2. What are some ways you could communicate about or shed light on the problem of overconsumption that we didn't get a chance to do in this program?**
- 3. What is one thing you learned in Mission STEMCAP?**
- 4. What was your favorite part of Mission STEMCAP (the science lecture, the film, the art workshop, the letter-writing, the podcast)?**
- 5. What are some ways that you can stay engaged in the fight against overconsumption after Mission STEMCAP?**

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