

THERE'S A ROCK IN MY LUNCH BOX!

Level: 4th grade
but can be adapted
to other ages

Supplies:

Lunch Box
Lunch items, i.e. sandwich, fruit, veggies,
snack cake, juice
Paper napkin

Purpose: To raise the level of awareness of the effects of soil management on people, wildlife and water quality.

1. Students list everything in the lunch box, including napkins or paper products. They write each item at the top of a piece of paper and trace each down through a food chain.
2. When the plant origin is reached, the children draw a line across the bottom of their lists and call it the soil base.
3. Then they retrace the steps in the chains and indicate where pesticides and herbicides will enter them, using a red marker to mark "P" for pesticide and a green one to mark "H" for herbicide.
4. In reviewing their food chains, the children also add any impact there might be on water and air quality and wildlife, using a blue marker to indicate water and drawing simple animal shapes for wildlife and a cloud shape for air.

This exercise ends with a classroom discussion about food and the environment.

Notes:

Have children rub rocks together to create soil. (See, that's the "rock" in my lunch box – all ingredients come from the soil, which is made from rock!)

Do "apple" demo to emphasize amount of useable soil left on earth.