

Animal Testing Education Activity

Purpose

This activity will show students how their choices influence the lives of animals in laboratories. They will also learn skills that will enable them to be responsible consumers and active citizens.

Materials

To do this assignment, students will need a list of companies that do and that do not test on animals. Use the “Cruelty-Free Shopping Guide,” which is available for free from TeachKind.org, or obtain printable PDFs at www.caringconsumer.com/searchcompany.html.

Background

Many people use products, such as Crest toothpaste, Ivory soap, or Bounty paper towels, without even realizing that the company that makes them tests on animals. In the 1980s, there were fewer than 50 “cruelty-free” companies—those that do not test products on animals. Thankfully, compassionate consumers did not want to blind bunnies or poison rats for new shampoos, soaps, or lipsticks, so they used their consumer power by boycotting companies that tested their products on animals. As a result, scores of companies, including Avon, Revlon, and Estée Lauder, stopped testing products on animals—and now, more than 550 companies are cruelty-free!

However, several major companies, like Procter & Gamble, continue to test their products and ingredients by using painful, unreliable animal tests. U.S. law does not require these products to be tested on animals, but companies continue to do so for legal—not medical—reasons. The European Union voted to ban product testing on animals. It is up to the American people to determine whether the U.S. will follow the E.U.’s compassionate lead.

To learn more about animal testing, visit StopAnimalTests.com.

Activity

Determine which products that you use are tested on animals. Fill in the information for *at least four* of the following items:

Item	Brand Name	Manufacturer*	Tested on Animals?
Shampoo	_____	_____	_____
Soap	_____	_____	_____
Toothpaste	_____	_____	_____
Cologne/perfume	_____	_____	_____
Deodorant	_____	_____	_____
Make-up	_____	_____	_____
Laundry soap	_____	_____	_____
Dishwashing soap	_____	_____	_____

* This information is often found on the back of the product, next to the contact information.

** Refer to your lists of companies that do and that do not test on animals. If a company is not on either list, write “not listed.”

Empowerment

Everyone has the power to influence corporations and the government. You can help animals in laboratories *and* practice important citizenship skills with the following activities:

- **Write polite letters to companies that still conduct animal tests, asking them to stop.** If you are boycotting their products, let them know. If you used their products in the past, let them know that as well. You can find a list of companies that test their products on animals and their contact information at StopAnimalTests.com/ccconsdo.html.
- **Purchase cruelty-free products.** If any of the products that you use are tested on animals, find suitable replacements for them. Products that are not tested on animals are called “cruelty-free.” Health-food stores and co-ops often carry an abundance of cruelty-free soaps, detergents, cosmetics, and personal care products. Grocery stores, drugstores, department stores, and specialty shops also carry a wide range of cruelty-free products.
- **Contact your federal representatives.** Ask them to support legislation that would ban the use of animals to test cosmetics and household products. To make your letter more effective, use the following tips:
 - Provide your full name and address.
 - In a clear, concise manner, explain what actions you want your representatives to take.
 - Explain how this issue impacts you personally.
 - Be polite and friendly.
 - Request a response.