

Calculating Plastic Utensil Use

Note: One person (student or teacher) will need to use a calculator to figure out the final number!

- Step 1: Vote as a class on how many times in the last year students have used a plastic utensil.
 - Write the number on the board.
- Step 2: Multiply the number from Step 1 by the number of classrooms in your school.
 - You can use an approximate number if you don't know the exact number of classrooms in your school.
- Step 3: Now, multiply that number by the number of schools in the United States - about 132,000 schools.
- Step 4: Get the final number of how many plastic utensils are used by students each year in the United States!
 - Example:
 - Step 1: 45 plastic utensils
 - Step 2: 45×15 Classrooms = 675 plastic utensils used by students in one school each year
 - Step 3: $675 \times 132000 = 89,100,000$ plastic utensils used by students across the United States

Steps to Make Biodegradable Utensils

Follow the instructions to build and test your biodegradable Utensil

- **Step 1: Choose if you are designing a fork, spoon, or knife (or more than 1).**
 - I am designing: _____
- **Step 2: Once you know what utensil you're making, do the following:**
 - Examine the materials provided by your teacher.
 - Choose materials that you believe will make a usable fork, knife or spoon AND are biodegradable.
- **Step 3: In pairs, or individually, make a fork, knife, or spoon that will be able to pick up, or cut, a piece of banana.**
- **Step 4: Test your utensil.**
 - Write a review of how well your utensil works below: