

PACKAGING AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES 1

V.Ryan © 2000 - 2013

On behalf of The World Association of Technology Teachers

W.A.T.T.



World Association of Technology Teachers

This exercise can be printed and used by teachers and students. It is recommended that you view the website (www.technologystudent.com) before attempting the design sheet .

THESE MATERIALS CAN BE PRINTED AND USED BY TEACHERS AND STUDENTS.
THEY MUST NOT BE EDITED IN ANY WAY OR PLACED ON ANY OTHER MEDIA INCLUDING WEB SITES AND INTRANETS.
NOT FOR COMMERCIAL USE.
THIS WORK IS PROTECTED BY COPYRIGHT LAW.
IT IS ILLEGAL TO DISPLAY THIS WORK ON ANY WEBSITE/MEDIA STORAGE OTHER THAN www.technologystudent.com

PACKAGING AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES 1



V.Ryan © 2013 World Association of Technology Teachers



BIOPLASTICS SYMBOL

BIO DEGRADABLE PACKAGING PLASTICS



BIOPLASTICS SYMBOL

Polymers / plastics have a reputation of being environmentally unfriendly. They take years and in some cases centuries to decay. However, plastic bags made from **Poly lactide (PLA)** take only five years to decompose. Containers such as drinking bottles and food containers manufactured from PLA, take slightly longer to decay, as they are manufactured from thicker material.

Poly lactide is referred to as a 'bioplastic' because of its environmentally friendly nature.

Courtesy of www.technologystudent.com

BIO DEGRADABLE PLASTICS FROM CORN STARCH (POLYLACTIDE)

Corn starch is a renewable material, as it is produced from plants and NOT from oil.

It is biodegradable / compostable, decomposing over a short period of time.

Traditional plastic can take centuries to decompose, polluting the surrounding environment.



Courtesy of www.technologystudent.com

Sandwich cartons, such as the one shown opposite, are often made from environmentally friendly materials.

The window of the food carton (seen above) has been manufactured from corn starch rather than traditional plastics derived from oil. Explain why corn starch has been chosen. *4 marks*
