

Polymers in Sports

Introduction

From archery to wrestling, from helmets to cleats, polymers are an integral part of sports today. Recent advances in safety equipment are directly tied to advances in polymer research. Improved athletic performance can be attributed to the addition of polymeric materials in sports equipment. Students cannot play any type of organized sport today without utilizing polymers.

This activity is designed to encourage students to recognize the role of polymers in their every day lives. Students will choose a sport and research the role of polymers in that sport. The types of safety and performance equipment utilizing polymers will be explored as well as the specific types of polymers and their roles.



Procedure



Choose a sport or sports combination from the list below. Compile a list of all equipment needed to play that sport. Include safety equipment, performance equipment, playing field equipment (bases, nets, etc.) and any others you can think of. Research the material making up each piece of equipment. Sources might include the internet, sporting goods stores, athletes who participate in that sport, coaches, or others. Indicate on your report form the source of your information for each item.

Archery	Baseball/softball	Boxing
Canoeing/Kayaking	Cycling	Diving
Equestrian	Fencing	Hockey/Field Hockey
Football	Gymnastics	Rowing
Sailing	Shooting	Soccer
Swimming/Synchronized	Tennis	Track & field
Swimming		
Volleyball	Weightlifting	Wrestling



