

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
Canoeing/Kayaking
Equestrian
Football
Sailing
Swimming/Synchronized
Swimming
Volleyball


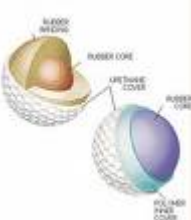



Baseball/softball
Cycling
Fencing
Gymnastics
Shooting
Tennis
Weightlifting

Boxing
Diving
Hockey/Field Hockey
Rowing
Soccer
Track & field
Wrestling



POLYMERS IN SPORTS
REPORT FORM

Sport Selected GOLF

EQUIPMENT	MATERIAL/ POLYMER	REFERENCE SOURCE
	Leather, nylon, polyurethane	Internet http://www.alibaba.com/showroom/Golf_Gloves.html
	Thermoplastic resins Natural and synthetic rubber	Internet http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m0HFI/is_9_51/ai_65859454
	Polyvinyl chloride, nylon, polyurethane, canvas	Internet http://www.made-in-china.com/Bags-Cases-Boxes-Catalog/Golf-Bag.html
	Leather and/or polyester; spikes may be metal or plastic	Internet http://ezinearticles.com/?Golf-Shoes---Tips-About-Choosing-Golf-Footwear!&id=591221
	Natural and synthetic rubber	Internet http://www.golfequipmentsource.com/golf-club-grips.html



Wood or plastic

Internet
<http://www.golftees.com/>