




Student Company Case Study



T2 – Soap Making

<p>Ideas and Opportunities</p>	<p>4 students (16-17year olds) worked with their Chemistry teacher (part of the core curriculum in science) to make and sell soap at the school open day. They wanted to raise money towards school funds and help feed animals on the street. This was inspired by the stray dog often found sleeping in the school grounds. It was hoped that a percentage of any profit could be donated to charities supporting street and stray animals. A trial batch of 50 soaps were manufactured for sale at the open day during the Spring festival. Sales were later expanded using Instagram and friends and family contacts.</p>	
<p>Resources</p>	<p>Ingredients for soap – sodium hydroxide, water, herbs, essential oils Making costs were small due to commitment and interest of adults able to source lower cost materials. Access to laboratory and supervision by specialist science teacher Paper and materials to make packaging and information leaflets</p>	
<p>Into Action</p>	<p>Tasks included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Liaison with the chemistry teacher for time to make soap in the laboratory. ● Sampling soaps and pricing up ingredients ● Researching soaps likely to sell well and popular fragrances/natural ingredients. ● Networking and negotiating to source materials at low cost. ● Creating promotional materials and packaging <p>Decisions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Choosing to use mild scents, such as lavender oil and mint oil to reduce costs. ● The quantity and size of soaps to produce to avoid waste and unsold stock. ● Make 250 bars, priced at 5 Turkish Liras per bar, less expensive than similar bars, but with the chance of selling them all. ● Select design and content for information leaflets and packaging. 	



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Reflection/Next Steps	Increasing costs of soap ingredients and competition from other soaps on the open market made meeting sales targets challenging. Working on the project involved effort and commitment outside of lessons. At times student company activity had to stop due to exam pressures. The group developed an interest in sustainability and using natural resources responsibly. They intend to pursue this area of interest in the future but will not be continuing with soap making.
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