



Dress Like an Onion

Level:

Grades K-12

Time:

1 hour

Environment:

Outdoors or inside
in a space that can
get wet.

Size:

Small groups or
individuals

Materials:

- Web access
- A variety of clothing made of different fabrics (denim, cotton, wool, synthetic, waterproof material)
- Bucket of water
- Floor that can get wet or outdoor space
- Hangers
- Clothesline
- Paper and pencils to record findings

Objective:

To understand how different fabrics and materials dry at different rates and to demonstrate how to properly prepare and dress for outdoor travel and adventure.

Procedure:**Group Discussion:**

1. Open up a discussion with the group about outdoor activities and clothing choice. Ask the group:
What makes playing outside fun? When is it not fun? How can what you wear impact an outdoor adventure? What types of clothes would you want to wear for different outdoor activities? Why?
 2. Using a web-based search, have the participants find out the different types and styles of clothing that was used for adventuring in the past. Have the participants: Identify the clothing style for outdoors at the turn of 18th, 19th, 20th century. Research what drove innovation in outdoor clothing. Identify what the first person wore to summit Mt Everest?
 3. Discuss outdoor travel in Vermont with participants? Ask them:
 - What are the differences in seasons here in Vermont?
 - What is different about hiking at higher elevations?
 - Do you need different types of clothing for different seasons?
 - What are the differences in weather between the bottom of Camels Hump and the top?
- Hands-On Activity:**
1. Set up clothesline and bucket with water.
 2. In groups or on their own, have participants hypothesize which articles of clothing might dry out the fastest? Have them provide explanations why they think their hypotheses are true.
 3. Submerge each article and hang on clothesline. Check at regular intervals. Record time and how dry the article is.

Analysis :

1. Have the participants analyze their data. Which clothes took the longest to dry? Which were the fastest?
2. Have the participants discuss what this tells them about the best clothes to wear on a hike. Which clothes are best in the winter? In the rain? When it is hot out?

Extension:

- Plan a hike for you and your students. After the hike, discuss and evaluate their clothing choice. What worked and what didn't work? Would they wear or bring something differently next time?

