

Balloons blow!

Worksheet 1 Teacher's notes

1. We all love balloons. What occasions can you think of that people use balloons?

birthdays, weddings, sports games...

2. The process of making balloons is not easy at all. First go to <http://www.rainforest-alliance.org/kids/species-profiles/rubber-tree> and read about rubber trees which are very important in balloon production. What product harvested from rubber trees is vital in balloon production?

latex- liquid rubber

3. Find explanation to these terms:

- latex- *lateks, liquid rubber*
- pigment – *pigment*
- mold- *forma*
- to cure- *zahartować*
- to accelerate-*przyspieszyć*
- to dip- *zanurzyć*
- coagulant- *koagulant, środek powodujący krzepnięcie*

Go to <http://www.balloonhq.com/faq/making.html#260> , read the information and draw a diagram showing the stages of balloon production:

students' answers based on the information from the website

4. Now go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PJQecDCS1aI>, watch How it's made – balloons and answer the questions:

- What were the balloons made from in the past? *animal bladders*
- When was the rubber balloon invented? *XIX century*
- When did the balloons start to be mass produced? *1930s*
- Why is the dye filtered? *to remove lumps*
- Why are the roller brushes used? *to create lips of the balloon*

5. Although the balloons are used in cheerful occasions and celebrations, there is a darker side to them. Go to <http://balloonsblow.org/Education> and read up about the ecological impact of balloons. What do you think?

students' own answers