**Product Design: Are Mushrooms the New Styrofoam?**

**After watching the videos about Ecovative, imagine what a difference it would make if we could design more products using these closed-loop materials instead of polystyrene (the name of the plastic used to make Styrofoam).**

**Your task is to design, mold, and test an application for Ecovative material.**

**First, work in your group to brainstorm everything you can think of that incorporated polystyrene. Then, search online to see if you can identify even more uses.**

**Use the table below to record your findings.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Use** | **How does it work?** | **How do you know if it is effective?** |

**Now that you have an extensive list of uses, decide as a group which one you would like to test.**

**You will need to figure how:**

* **What property you will test**
* **How you will make your mold for your Ecovative product**
* **How you will obtain a similar product made of polystyrene for comparison**

**You will use the Experimental Design worksheet to create a test to use once your mushroom materials have been molded, grown, and dried.**