Edible Cutlery

Introduction

Edible cutlery is an original idea launched by an Indian company, Bakey's, to create an eco-friendly alternative to disposable plastic cutlery. This article explains the ideas behind the design and development of the edible cutlery, which Bakey’s hopes to launch on a global scale. Their unique idea should engage pupils and inspire them to think about innovative ways of being environmentally friendly.

Answers

1. E.g. The spoons come in several tasty flavours. If people throw the spoons away instead of eating them, it doesn’t stop them from being environmentally friendly. The spoons will quickly decompose.

2. E.g. Imaginative, because he has created a clever, original solution to the problem of plastic cutlery.

3. Bakey’s utensils decompose within 5-6 days when exposed to the elements. — Fact
   Tossing a plastic spoon into the trash is fashionable. — Opinion
   The utensils are a culinary treat. — Opinion (1 mark for 2 correct, 2 marks for all 3 correct)

4. Any appropriate answer. E.g. Yes, the author thinks the spoons are a good idea (she calls them “delicious treats”), so the article is unbalanced because it concentrates on the positive aspects of the products and the company. OR E.g. No, although the author mentions a lot of positive things about the spoons and the company, she also mentions some of the problems that the business faces, so the article isn’t biased.

5. Any appropriate answer. E.g. No, because plastic cutlery is more practical and can be used in lots of different situations. Plastic cutlery lasts forever, but edible cutlery goes off. OR E.g. Yes, because once it’s cheaper and more widely available, I think lots of people will want to buy edible cutlery.

Extra Activities

- Imagine that Bakey’s are launching their edible cutlery in the UK. Ask pupils to write a script for a TV advert promoting the edible spoons. The advert should be informative and persuasive. Pupils might also want to create a jingle or a catchy slogan. Pupils could perform their adverts to the rest of the class.

- Ask pupils to create an eco-friendly superhero with green superpowers. For example, it could use solar energy to fly and have the ability to ingest greenhouse gases. Pupils should draw and label their superhero, then write a short paragraph describing how their powers will help them to save the planet.

- Ask pupils to think about the properties that Bakey’s spoons need to have in order to be fit for purpose (e.g. they need to be rigid, fairly insoluble, biodegradable). Conduct an investigation to test whether there is another material which could be used to make an environmentally-friendly spoon.

- The article mentions that the edible spoons come in different flavours, e.g. sugar, ginger-cinnamon and cumin. Inform pupils that garlic and plain spoons are also on sale. Conduct a survey amongst the class about which flavour pupils would like to try. Pupils should work out what percentage of the class would like to try each flavour (to the nearest 1%), then create a pie chart to show their findings.