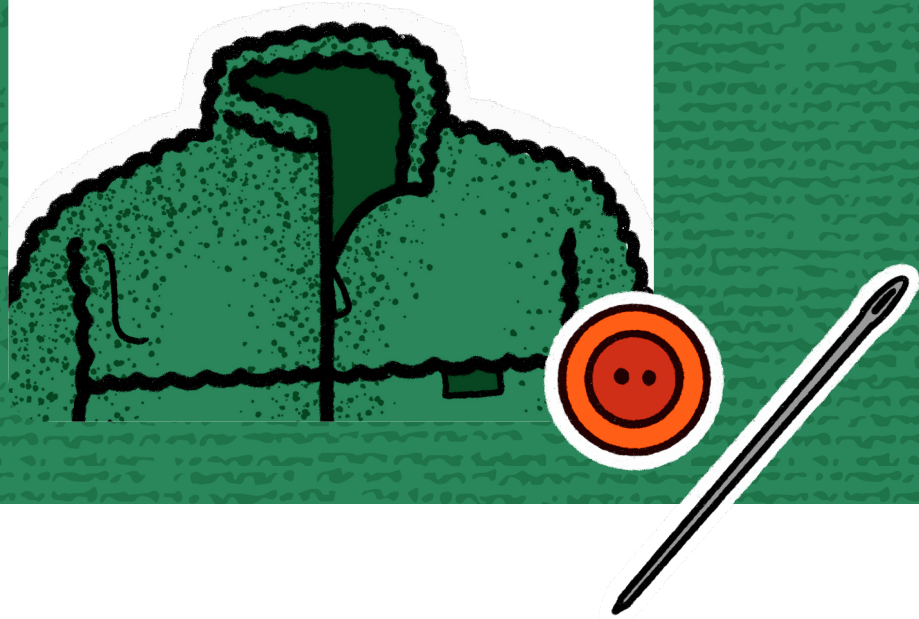


#8: Be part of the solution



Summary

The Earth is our home, the only one we have. You have seen how the fast fashion industry impacts on the planet and on people. We need to act now to transform the way we think about the clothes we wear, so we can help our home survive for our future. Think about the research you have looked at and completed, the potential solutions that you have explored, and about small steps we can all take to protect our planet. What change will you make to save our planet?

This activity asks learners to commit to one small change when choosing, buying, wearing, caring for and disposing of the clothes they wear.

At the end of this learners will

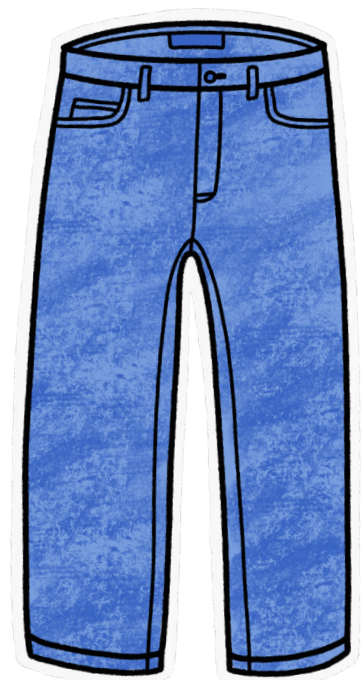
- apply their knowledge and create their own response to the question 'what change will you make to save our planet?'

Time frame

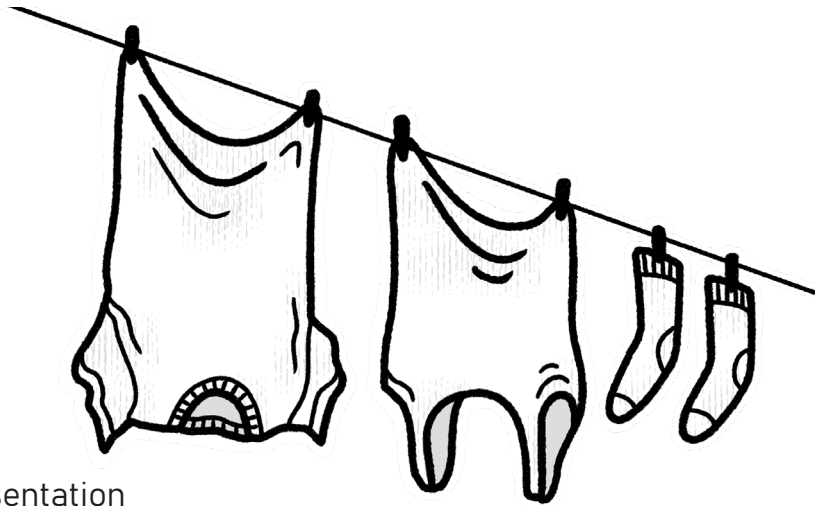
45 mins

Lesson Format

- Group discussion about potential positive changes they have found out about when thinking about clothing.
- Group discuss and select a challenge to introduce or develop sustainable living actions within your school.
- Individuals write their own pledge about the clothes they wear.



Note: Before the lesson choose a selection of the ideas in point 2. These are challenges that will help learners to introduce or develop sustainable living actions within your school. We know that a large part of the challenge is likely to take place outside of this lesson as learners start to apply what they have learnt. Before ending by asking learners to pledge one positive change related to the clothes they wear, we suggest that you read this resource about helping young people deal with climate anxiety: <https://www.nationalgeographic.co.uk/family/2021/04/helping-kids-deal-with-climate-anxiety>. Encourage learners to be realistic. Remember, the most sustainable clothes are the ones you already own.



Key resources

- 8 Be part of the solution Presentation
- 8 Be part of the solution Activity 1 (sustainable living actions)
- 8 Be part of the solution Activity 2 (museum of your own)
- 8 Be part of the solution Activity 3 (sustainable fashion show)
- 8 Be part of the solution Activity 4 (2 A5 postcards printed on A4. Please cut in half. Each learner needs one printed postcard)

What to do

1. Slide 2: **Task 1** Discuss the positive actions you have learnt about so far, relating to fast fashion.

Discussion points:

- What actions are big organisations and leaders making?
- Can you list 3 small possible changes you could make to the way you buy and wear clothes?
- Why is it important that we all consider making these changes?

2. Slide 3: **Task 2** Sustainable living actions.

(**Note:** Before the lesson choose a challenge for learners to complete to help them introduce or develop sustainable living actions within your school. Suggestions for sustainable living actions can be found in Activity 1 and we have provided further ideas to create a museum of your own in Activity 2 and creating a sustainable fashion show in Activity 3.)

Plan a way forward to approach the selected action. We know that a large part of the challenge is likely to take place outside of this lesson as learners start to apply what they have learnt.

3. Slide 4: **Task 3** Learners are asked: What change will you make to save our planet? (**Note:** Use Activity 4 from this section. Each learner needs one printed postcard.)

Using their own discussions, learning and ideas on this slide, learners can write their own pledge about the clothes they wear by completing the postcard. You might also like to go back and reference Section 1, slide 9 and Section 2, slide 18 and Section 3 slide 16 for more ideas of positive actions.



Extension ideas

- Share your pledges. Tweet us at [@thinktankmuseum](https://twitter.com/thinktankmuseum) #BMTlearning
- The teacher could collect and keep the postcards and hand them out again after some time has passed (e.g. at the end of a half term) to remind learners of what they have learnt about sustainable choices and their pledge to help save our planet.
- Add pledges to the display within Our Changing Planet gallery at Thinktank. If you are able to **bring your group to Thinktank**, a visit to Our Changing Planet will help learners place their learning about fast fashion into the broader context of climate change and the Anthropocene through object-based learning and encourage them to become part of positive change.



Sustainable living actions within your school

Can you make a change in your community? There are lots of possible ways to share your knowledge and get others involved.

Start telling the story of your clothes.

- If someone says they like something you are wearing tell them the story of it, where it was made and what you know about how it was made.
- Arrange to speak to your student council and share what you have learnt about the clothes we wear and sustainable choices. You might consider having a Sustainability Forum or Working Group with your school council.
- Help others learn by sharing your knowledge. Create a museum display about what you have learnt. Use 8 Be part of the solution Further Learning Activity 2 to help you.
- Organise a fashion show of upcycled/second hand/swapped 'slow' fashion. This could be a big event that involves the whole school, or a small classroom-based challenge.

Treasure your threads.

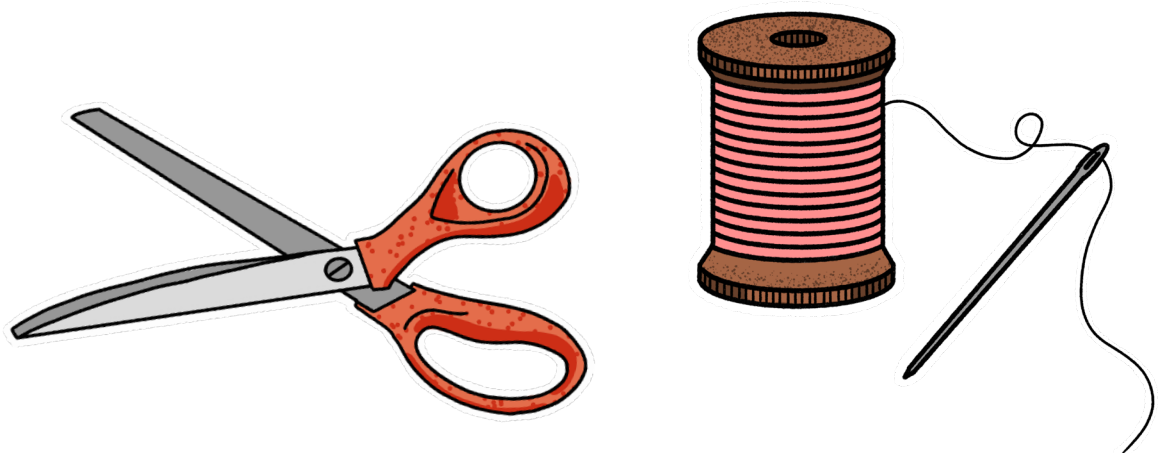
- Upskill yourself and try mending your clothes. Start with a small task, such as sewing a button on.
- Ask around to find people who could teach others how to mend.
- Consider starting a school club to help people learn how to do simple mending and upcycling.
- Consider organising a community swap shop so that clothing can be passed on and reused instead of thrown away.

Campaign

- Find out the name of the Member of Parliament responsible for Climate Change. Write to them about what you have learnt.
- Write to the MP for your local area and tell them what you have learnt.
- Find out when Fashion Revolution Week is! Consider joining in with their suggestions. <https://www.fashionrevolution.org/events-3/>

Embed

Consider embedding the Sustainable Development Goals into the life of the school. Find out about the 17 goals here. <https://globalgoalscentre.org/the-goals/>



Museum of Your Own

This activity is best completed as a class, with adult supervision.

Have you ever been to a museum? People go to museums to learn about history, the natural world or science and technology. Museums and museum exhibitions are excellent places to learn new things, have fun and be inspired.

'Exhibition' is another word for display. In museums, objects are displayed in groups, with labels and sometimes activities to help visitors understand the objects.



[Dressed to the Nines](#) exhibition at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, December 2019 – March 2020

Design an exhibition to show others what you have learnt about fast fashion and sustainable fashion.

- 1) Decide what your exhibition or display will be called: you could name it after your school, class or something completely different.
- 2) Think about the objects you want to include. You could use the garments you investigated in Section 1, or different garments. You might choose to use photographs in your exhibition. You might include some of the activity sheets you have completed during your learning. Decide what you want visitors to see first, and what you want your visitors to see last when they visit your exhibition.

Lesson 8: Be part of the solution

- 3) Think about the stories you want to tell using the garments you have selected. Are there similar stories or themes that connect some of the garments? Is there a unique story that is best told using one particular garment?
- 4) Think carefully about how you will place the garments and objects or you have chosen. Will they look best:
 - On a surface like a chair or stool?
 - On a hanger or mannequin?
 - Under a light?

REMEMBER: Make sure you look after the objects you have chosen and work out a way to display them that also keeps them safe.

- 5) On pieces of paper, write labels for the objects. You could include the name of the person who owned the object, materials used to make it, information about how garments were made and worn and information about why an object is important to you personally. Remember to include information you have learnt about the impact of the fashion industry on our planet.

Name of object

Materials it is made from.

If it is a garment, who wore it or made it.

Why is it important and what can we learn from it.

How does this help us learn about the impact of the fashion industry on the environment and our planet?

- 6) Label the objects. Make sure the labels are placed somewhere your visitors can clearly see them.
- 7) Design an activity or game to help visitors learn more. You could create a survey for visitors to complete, similar to those in Section 1. You could create a colouring sheet or a quiz about the objects you have selected.
- 8) Design a poster to advertise your museum exhibition: you should include the name of your museum, information about the exhibition and an image that makes people want to come.
- 9) Finally, show off your exhibition! Invite visitors to come and admire the objects and learn about fast fashion and sustainable fashion. Send us pictures of your exhibition to @bmtlearning on Twitter, we would love to see your exhibition!

Organise a sustainable fashion show

Consider a theme

- Learners could upcycle existing clothing to make new outfits.
- Learners could wear second hand or swapped clothing.
- Learners could create outfits from recycled materials e.g. newspapers, carrier bags.
- Learners might want to use their outfits to highlight certain concerns, statistics or issues. E.g. an outfit made of repurposed plastic could be used to comment on pollution of the oceans through microplastics.

Consider your boundaries

- What do learners want to communicate? Refer to Section 2, slide 2 for facts and figures about the global impact of fast fashion and Section 8, slide 4 for ideas for positive actions and changes.
- Decide how long the garments that appear in the show should last for. Just the show? Should they be durable?
- Should learners design first and then make, or just get stuck in to making?
- Should any money be spent? Or should only existing resources be used?
- How big do you want your show to be? This could be a big event that involves the whole school, or a smaller classroom-based challenge.
- Do you want a narrator to explain each outfit and what it helps us learn?
- If it is a whole school event, do you need fliers or posters?
- Think about timescale. How long are learners able to work on this?
- Think about how to document the challenge. Learners could take photos throughout the process or write an article for a school blog or newsletter.

Look at what other schools or organisations have done for inspiration

- A primary school in India put on an eco-friendly fashion show.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BBAP9d-FkS4>
- Year 9 students in Derbyshire designed outfits and teamed up with machinists from a factory to have them made.
<https://www.derbyshiretimes.co.uk/education/derbyshire-school-hosts-first-sustainable-fashion-week-challenge-3510780>
- A University in USA celebrated eco-fashion.
<https://www.scu.edu/sustainability/events/ecofashion/>
- One episode of The Great British Sewing Bee challenged contestants to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000w7rz>





What change will you make to save our planet?

Signed _____



What change will you make to save our planet?

Signed _____