



Teacher Resource

# Fast Fashion

## Focus Questions

1. Discuss the BTN Fast Fashion story as a class. Record the main points of your discussion.
2. What is fast fashion?
3. How has the way clothes are made changed over the years?
4. What innovations meant that clothes could be made more quickly and cheaply?
5. Clothes that are made in developing countries are cheaper because...
6. Where are most of our clothes made?
7. What impact does clothing waste have on the environment?
8. Where does a lot of discarded clothing end up?
9. Why can clothes that have been donated to charities cause problems?
10. What is being done to solve the problem of fast fashion?

## Activity: Class Discussion

Hold a class discussion about the information in the BTN Fast Fashion story. Use the following questions to guide discussion:

- What is fast fashion? Come up with a class definition.
- Do you know where your clothes come from?
- Why have clothes become relatively cheap?
- Where can you buy fast fashion?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of fast fashion?
- How can we reduce clothing waste? Make a list.
- What do you do with your unwanted clothing?



### EPISODE 24

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#### KEY LEARNING

Students will learn more about the impacts of fast fashion.

#### CURRICULUM

##### Geography – Year 4

The use and management of natural resources and waste, and the different views on how to do this sustainably.

##### Science – Year 4

Science knowledge helps people to understand the effect of their actions.

##### Science – Years 5 & 6

Scientific knowledge is used to solve problems and inform personal and community decisions.

##### Design and Technologies – Years 3 & 4

Evaluate design ideas, processes and solutions based on criteria for success developed with guidance and including care for the environment.

##### Design and Technologies – Years 5 & 6

Examine how people in design and technologies occupations address competing considerations, including sustainability in the design of products, services, and environments for current and future use.

## Activity: Match these terms to their definitions

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>Sustainable</b>	<i>Cheap usually poor quality clothing that's made in bulk.</i>
<b>Landfill</b>	<i>Materials or substances occurring in nature, like farm land and water.</i>
<b>Fast fashion</b>	<i>A site for the disposal of waste materials.</i>
<b>Natural resources</b>	<i>Interacting with the environment in a way that ensures there will be enough resources left for future generations.</i>

## Activity: Research

After watching and discussing the BTN Fast Fashion story, what questions do students have? The following KWLH organiser provides students with a framework to explore their knowledge on this topic and consider what they would like to know and learn.

<b><i>What do I <u>k</u>now?</i></b>	<b><i>What do I <u>w</u>ant to know?</i></b>	<b><i>What have I <u>l</u>earnt?</i></b>	<b><i>How will I find out?</i></b>

Students will develop their own question/s to research or select one or more of the questions below.

- What are the human, geographic and environmental impacts of fast fashion?
- Why is addressing fast fashion challenging?
- Investigate what happens to your clothes when you no longer wear them.
- How do you balance affordability, style, and ethics when it comes to buying clothing?
- Whose responsibility is sustainable fashion – the fashion industry or the consumer?
- Investigate a clothing company and research their ethical trading policy.
- Why is it important to know where our clothes are made and what happens to them once we no longer need or want them?
- Investigate the life cycle of a piece of clothing. Watch this Ted-Ed video about the [life cycle of a t-shirt](#) to learn more.

## Activity: The story behind your t-shirt

Do you know the story behind your clothes? Check out this [interactive story](#) to discover more about:

- What is your t-shirt made of?
- Where does it come from?
- Who made it?
- What happens to my clothes that are no longer wanted?
- What can you do about reducing the impact of fast fashion?



## Activity: Upcycling

Clarify students' understanding of what upcycling is and what the benefits are:

- What is upcycling?
- Do you know about the three R's (reduce, reuse, and recycle)? Explain the difference.
- What do you recycle and upcycle at home and at school?
- What are the benefits of upcycling? Here are some suggestions:
  - reduces the amount of waste and therefore landfill.
  - reduces the need for production using new or raw materials (therefore reduces air pollution, water pollution, greenhouse gas emissions).
  - unique, one of a kind products.
  - Save money – for example you could upcycle your clothes into new designs
  - use your creativity.

The BTN [Upcycling](#) and [Green Art](#) stories explain the benefits of upcycling unwanted items.

**Have unwanted t-shirts?** Make these no-sew bags - they make great book bags! Follow the [step-by-step instructions](#) or watch this [short video](#).

**A fantastic class project!** Make a t-shirt rug for the classroom or another room in the school. [Here are the instructions](#).

**No sure what do to with your old pairs of jeans?**

Check out these [30 denim upcycling ideas](#) for some inspiration!

The [Pinterest upcycling and repurposing page](#) has lots of ideas for reusing unwanted items. Get creative!



## BTN Fast Fashion Stories

Watch these BTN stories to learn more about fashion waste and the way fast fashion is produced.



[Fashion Waste](#)



[Fashion Factories](#)

### Activity – Choose a project

Individually or in small groups, students will choose one of the following projects to work on and then present their findings to the class.

#### Reporter for a day

Investigate the impacts of fast fashion and write an online news report or create a short video for kids.

#### Kahoot Quiz

Create a Kahoot quiz using the facts from the BTN Fast Fashion story.

#### Where are your school uniforms made?

Investigate where your school uniforms are manufactured. Take your concerns to school leadership or SRC.

#### Campaign

Design a public education campaign to raise awareness about fast fashion. Think about your campaign's aim, your target audience, and the value of raising awareness. Create a poster using [Canva](#).

### Useful Websites

- [Fashion Waste](#) – BTN
- [Fashion Factories](#) – BTN
- [Fast Fashion](#) – Foreign Correspondent
- [Fast Fashion story map](#) – ESRI