

SUSTAINABILITY LESSON: CONSUMERISM AND THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

How can we contribute to a more sustainable economy by closing the loop in the clothing industry?

The lesson plan allows for the assessment of multiple skills, including research skills, critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, and collaboration. There is a focus on blended learning with opportunities for independent work, guided discussion, co-learning and collaborative tasks.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this activity, learners will understand the:

- Circular economy
- Issues associated with sustainability and stewardship of natural resources
- The problem of waste in our current linear economy and its repercussions
- How a circular economy provides a viable alternative to the problem of waste
- Aspects of economic, social, and environmental cooperation

Length of Activity:

Consumerism Lesson:

- 70 minutes
- Review Slide deck as a class, “Create a Co-operative Business” activity
- Delivery notes included in slide deck

Co-operative Co-design Workshop (optional)

- 2-3 additional 60 minute blocks
- Consumerism Lesson, followed by step-by-step instructions outlined in Co-operative Co-design slide deck; in which students will work as a class and in small groups to create a co-operative business that closes the loop in the clothing industry.
- Delivery notes included in slide deck

Materials List:

Consumerism Lesson, 70 minutes

[Consumerism Slide Deck](#)

[Consumerism Slide Deck with Delivery Notes](#)

[How to create a Co-operative Business Handout](#)

Smartboard

Co-operative Co-design Workshop (120-180 minutes)

[Co-operative Co-design Slide Deck](#)

Smartboard

Whiteboards/markers

Chromebooks w/Google slides, Canva, Prezi or other presentation software

Additional Learning:

[The Story of Stuff Worksheet](#)- Word Doc

[Co-operatives Explained](#)- PDF with links

Curriculum Connections:

Grade 9 Geography

- B1. The Physical Environment and Human Activities: analyze various interactions between physical processes, phenomena, and events and human activities in Canada.
- C1. The Sustainability of Resources: analyze impacts of resource policy, resource management, and consumer choices on resource sustainability in Canada (FOCUS ON: Interrelationships; Geographic Perspective).

Grade 11 Geography

- C1. Sustainability and Stewardship of Natural Resources: analyze issues associated with sustainability and stewardship of natural resources in the selected region.
- C2. Inequality and Sustainability: analyze aspects of inequality and economic sustainability in the selected region, including programs intended to promote equality and sustainability.

For Teacher Support:

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Feedback Survey: [Teacher Survey](#)

