

How what we buy impacts our planet (examples)



Mining for Materials

Tantalum is a metal used by many industries. It is found in mobile phones. Most of it comes from small-scale mining in Central Africa. The trade is under the control of militia groups who smuggle, rape and murder.



Land Clearance

Miles of trees have been cleared in the Cerrado area of Brazil to grow soya beans which are shipped to the UK. These beans are used to feed chickens which end up on our supermarket shelves. The trees and soil of the Cerrado store 13.7bn tonnes of CO2.



Plastic Pollution

Tiny particles of microplastic are found in the world's oceans. They are bad for marine animals, plants and fish; and get into the human food chain. They come from the plastic items we throw away that often end up in the sea. Over time these items break up into tiny pieces.



Carbon Footprint

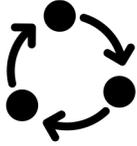
Too much carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere creates a 'greenhouse' effect which increases the earth's temperature. When we drive our cars, heat homes and use electricity we are contributing to climate change that causes floods, droughts, fires, melting glaciers...



Income and Living

When we buy something in a shop or online, we are supporting the people who made it, wherever they are in the world. However, not everyone gets a fair wage. From Bangalore to Leicester, fast fashion is often made with cheap labour.

How we can reduce our impact



The Circular Economy

The old way of producing things was to take materials from nature, make something, then throw it away. In a Circular Economy, re-use is designed into the process and actions are taken to deliberately regenerate nature impacted.

A vast amount of baby clothing ends up in landfill. *Circos* has introduced an online sales model where clothes are returned when they are outgrown and recycled.



Reducing Our Impact Footprint

There are many individual actions you can take to reduce your negative impact on the planet.

- Avoid fast fashion
- Reduce all new purchases
- Find ways to re-use what you already have
- Recycle everything that can be recycled
- Use less water and electricity
- Eat less meat and eat local produce
- Fly less

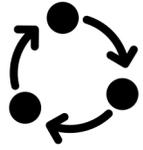


Future Careers

All future careers must play their part in helping to save our planet. Here are a few to think about:

- Conservation Scientists
- Environmental Scientists
- Global Citizen Creatives
- Plant and Food Scientists
- Product Designers
- Social Justice Specialist
- Teacher
- Urban Farmer
- Urban Planner
- Weather Scientist

A few suggested teacher resources



The Circular Economy

[Ellen MacArthur Foundation](#)

[Ask Nature](#)

[Teemill Circular Fashion](#)

[Biopak Takeaway Solutions](#)



Reducing Our Impact Footprint

[World Wildlife Fund](#)

[UN Climate Change Conference](#)

[Woodland Trust](#)

[Anti-Slavery International](#)



Future Careers

[Young Global Leaders](#)

[STEM Learning: Clean Growth](#)

[Global Shapers Community](#)