

## GRADE 6 LEARNING EXPERIENCE

# Trading Textiles

### Summary

In this lesson, students will choose a piece of clothing to trace back to its country of origin, hold a clothing swap and Eco-fashion show. Learners use infographics to demonstrate their understanding of how to divert textile waste from landfills.

### Objective

Students will learn about the impact of the textile industry on our planet and options for diverting textile waste away from landfills.

### Pre-Activity

#### T-SHIRT TAGS

##### DIRECTIONS

#### CLOTHING ORIGIN RESEARCH

Have students pair up with a partner and determine which country their partner's shirt was made in by looking at the tag.

Have students research the country of origin of their T-shirt, then share their findings with the class.

Fill out the **Geography Detective Sheet (Appendix 1)**.

##### MATERIALS

**Appendix 1**  
Geography Detective Sheet

Internet access for students

**DURATION**  
60-70 mins

#### SLIDE SHOW

Show and discuss the **Fashion Facts slideshow (Appendix 2: Accompanying PDF file)** from The Story of Stuff Project by Andrea Newell

**MATERIALS**  
**Appendix 2**  
Fashion Facts Slideshow (PDF)

**DURATION**  
10 mins

### MAIN LEARNING OUTCOME

**GRADE:**

6

**SUBJECT:**

#### Social Studies



Learners will implement age appropriate actions that demonstrate responsibility as global citizens.

#### SKILLS

##### Implement

**Select** – Locate several relevant and dependable details to support an answer

**Plan** – Identify steps to solve the problem. Execute the steps, modifying as necessary.

**Evaluate** – Review steps and results from an investigation or problem solving. Reflect on varying perspectives and alternative solutions or findings. Identify potential new problems and/or issues.

**Apply** – Carry out or complete a procedure/ technique

### CROSS-CURRICULAR LINKS

#### English Language Arts



##### Listening & Speaking

Learners will communicate effectively and clearly respecting cultural contexts.

#### Art



##### Outcome 1

Students will explore and manipulate a range of materials, demonstrating an ability to express themselves.

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Share on social media!  
#NothingWasted



## Activity

# ECO-FASHION SHOW

### DIRECTIONS

## GROUP BRAINSTORMING

In small groups, brainstorm alternatives to putting unwanted textiles in the garbage. Write ideas in the **Graphic Organizer (Appendix 3)**.

Here are some ideas the students might come up with:

- REDUCE** the number of clothing items purchased.
- REUSE** by giving them to a friend/family member/second-hand store; using them for rags; or using the fabric for something new.
- RECYCLE** used clothes by donating them to a charity.  
(**Note:** A few municipalities in Nova Scotia collect unwanted clothing at the curb for recycling)

Discuss textile recycling in Nova Scotia by sharing the following facts:

- 37,000 tonnes of textiles are generated in Nova Scotia each year.
- 7,000 tonnes of textiles are recycled annually in Nova Scotia.
- Over 500 clothing donation bins are available across the province.

For more information on textile recycling in Nova Scotia, visit [afterwear.ca](http://afterwear.ca)

## CLOTHING SWAP

Explain the concept of a clothing swap to students and send home a **Letter to Parents/Guardians (See Appendix 4)**

Choose a date, and have the students bring in unwanted clothes to participate in a clothing swap.

Choose a student to run the clothing swap. Have the student hold up an article of clothing. Students interested in that article raise their hands. Another student hands out playing cards to the interested students. The student with the highest card receives the piece of clothing.

**OPTION** During the clothing swap, the student with the highest card is asked to **share one fact they learned about textiles** from the pre-activity to receive the piece of clothing

## ECO-FASHION SHOW

Students will put on an “Eco-Fashion” show using their newly acquired clothes.

Have the students choose their “look” and ask them to create a brief description of their outfit that the emcee of the fashion show will read.

Create a space in the classroom or school to have the fashion show.

Appoint an emcee for the show to narrate the students’ new eco-friendly outfits.

**OPTION** Create the **Eco-Fashion Show** as a video or in the style of a commercial

### MATERIALS

Appendix 3  
Brainstorming  
graphic  
organizer

### DURATION

15–20 mins

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### MATERIALS

Appendix 4  
Letter to  
Parents/  
Guardians

Deck of playing  
cards, shuffled

### DURATION

60 mins

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### MATERIALS

Outfit  
description  
cards

Decorations for  
fashion show  
(optional)

### DURATION

60–90 min

## Post-Activity

# TEXTILE RECYCLING INFOGRAPHIC

### DIRECTIONS

Have students create infographics that explain textile recycling in Nova Scotia, as well as other options to divert textile waste from landfills.

Infographics can be put up around the school or in the community.

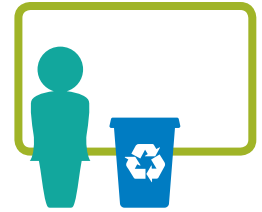
**OPTIONS** Create infographics by hand or with technology.  
Use Canva for infographics [www.canva.com/](http://www.canva.com/)

### MATERIALS

Paper, art supplies (markers, scissors, glue etc.)

Technology (optional)

**DURATION**  
60–90 min



### WASTE REDUCTION EDUCATORS

Divert NS provides funding to municipalities to deliver waste reduction education to schools across the province.

Your local waste reduction educator(s) provides the following services, and more, free of charge!

- classroom presentations
- green team set up
- advice on bins and signage
- tours of local waste facilities
- school waste audits

To find out more, visit [divertns.ca](http://divertns.ca)

## Assessment

**FORMATIVE** Evaluate student comprehension of how to divert textile waste from landfills through class discussions and passively monitoring group conversations.

**SUMMATIVE (OPTIONAL)** Option to evaluate infographics created by students.



### ENVIRONMENTAL EVENTS

There are many great opportunities throughout the year to highlight the 3Rs in the classroom. Check out these annual events:

**Waste Reduction Week** October (3<sup>rd</sup> week)

**Earth Day** April 22

**Compost Awareness Week** May (1<sup>st</sup> full week)

**Environment Week** June (1<sup>st</sup> full week)

## ABOUT DIVERT NS

Divert NS is a not-for-profit organization championing recycling in Nova Scotia. For over 20 years we've helped build a culture of recycling through environmental stewardship, education, and innovation. Divert NS operates the **Beverage Container Deposit-Refund Program** and the **Used Tire Management Program**. In addition, we work in collaboration with government,

industry, and academia to divert waste-resources from landfill. Divert NS, in partnership with municipalities, delivers education and awareness programs to schools, businesses, and community groups. Divert NS also works to develop stewardship agreements and funds innovative research and development initiatives.

Toll-free 1.877.313.7732 • [info@divertns.ca](mailto:info@divertns.ca) • [divertNS.ca](http://divertNS.ca)



# Geography Detective

What country was your piece of clothing made in?

Where is this country? Is it close to or far away from Nova Scotia?

Research and list three facts about this country.

How would clothing get from this country to Nova Scotia?  
(Example: by truck, by ship, by train)

APPENDIX 2  
TRADING TEXTILES

# Fashion Facts Slide Show from The Story of Stuff Project

The following is a  
overview for the  
separate file entitled:  
[GR-6-Trading-Textiles-  
Appx2-Fashion.pdf](#)

GRADE 6 LEARNING EXPERIENCE

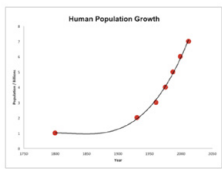
## Never Look at Clothes the Same Way Again

FASHION FACTS

FROM THE STORY OF STUFF PROJECT BY ANDREA NEWELL

divertNS.ca

FACT #1



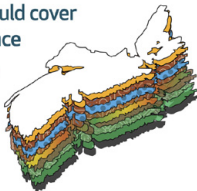
There are over 7 billion people on the earth. If each person had only 5 pieces of clothing, that would still be 35 billion pieces of clothing.

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FACT #2

In 2015 it was estimated the fashion industry would produce 400 billion meters of fabric.

That amount would cover the whole province of Nova Scotia...  
9 layers deep!



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FACT #3



The number of new clothes made each year is equivalent to each person in the world (all 7 billion) having 20 new items. Every year. And it keeps growing.

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FACT #4

Fashion, by its nature, encourages high turnover in the pursuit of being trendy.



This constant apparel replacement that promotes poor quality, low-cost garments is called "fast fashion."

Image credit: <https://i.fknews.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/0916McFashion-is-wearing-it>

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FACT #5



STOCK.PIC - WILL PURCHASE

The fashion industry is second only to the oil industry for pollution.

SOURCE: "Fast Fashion is the Second Dirtiest Industry in the World, Next to Big Oil" by Gayle Sweeney <https://www.ecomatch.com/fast-fashion-is-the-second-dirtiest-industry-in-the-world-next-to-big-oil-1842083445.html>

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FACT #6



Only about 10% of donated items are actually resold.

SOURCE: <https://truecostmovie.com/>

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SOURCE

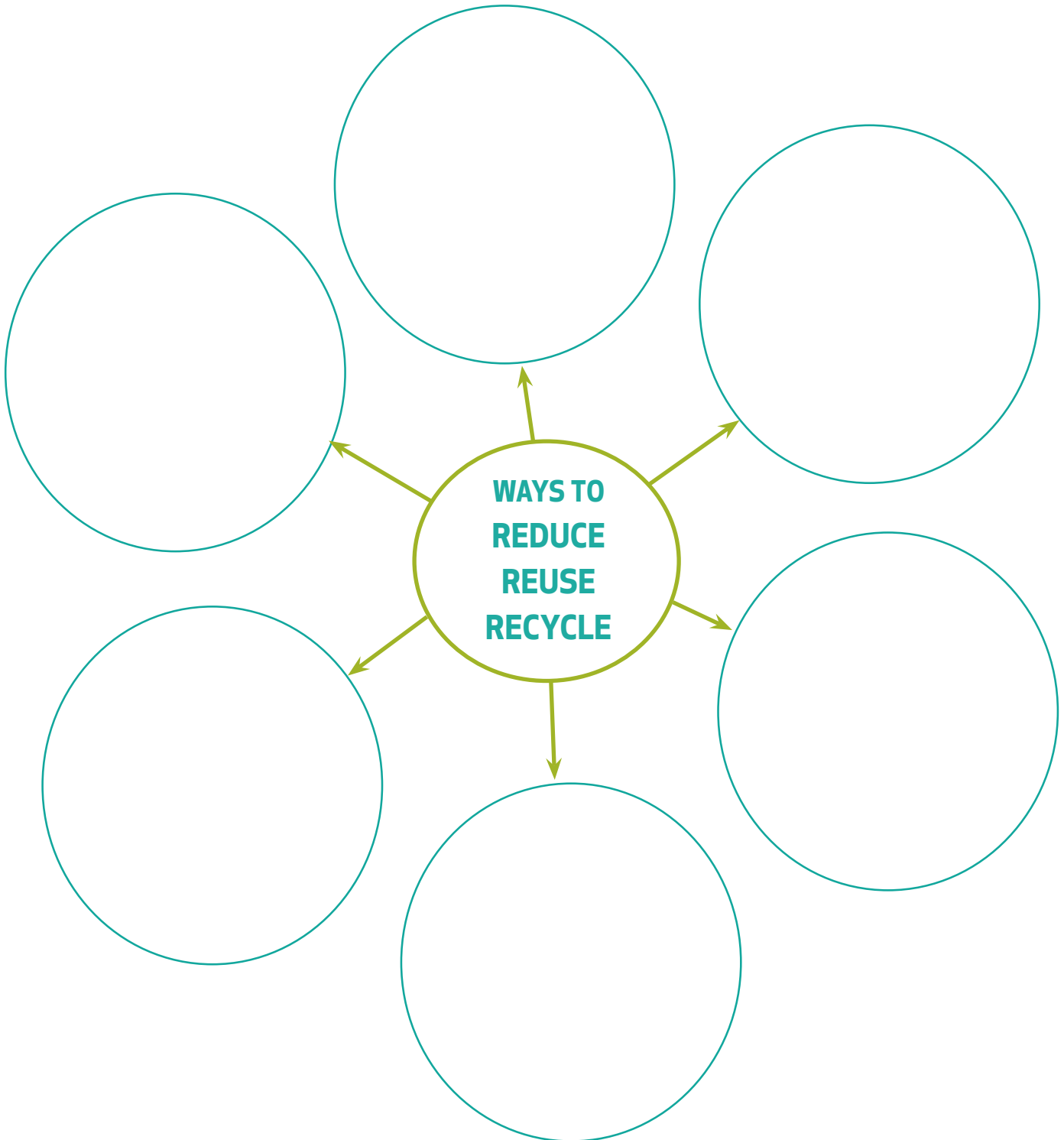
Newell, Andrea. "Never Look at Clothes the Same Way Again." The Story of Stuff Project. N.p., 19 July 2016. Web. 03 Apr. 2017.

<http://storyofstuff.org/blog/never-look-at-clothes-the-same-way-again/>

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# Graphic Organizer

In each of the circles, write how you could **Reduce**, **Reuse** or **Recycle** textiles.



APPENDIX 4  
TRADING TEXTILES

## Dear Parents/Guardians,

In our Grade 6 class we have been learning about where clothes come from and where they go when we no longer want them.

As part of our learning we will be holding a class “clothes-swap” and “eco-fashion” show to learn about options to reuse our textiles instead of sending them to the landfill.

Please send any gently-used clothing to school with your learner on \_\_\_\_\_  
(date).

Any unclaimed clothes will be donated to charity.

Thank you for your support,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Grade 6 Teacher



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