

# The Story of Stuff

1 Copy the images of the 5 stages of the materials economy

Extraction	Production	Distribution	Consumption	Disposal

2. How much of our natural resources have been trashed in the last few decades?

3. How many planets are needed to support current rates of consumption in the US and Europe?

4. How many trees are being lost in the Amazon each minute?

5. What is being added to the production system that is creating dangerous waste products?

6. What is at the top of the food chain and threatening the health of future generations?

7. What is meant by 'externalising costs of production'?

8. Who is paying for the real cost of cheap electronic equipment, i.e. the \$4.99 radio)? List at least three groups.

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9a. How much material is still in the system after 6 months? \_\_\_\_\_%

9b. Where have the remaining materials gone?

10. When did the modern consumer economy come into being? Why?

11. What do these terms mean? Give an example of each.

- 'Planned obsolescence'

For example

- 'Perceived obsolescence'

For example

12a. What is happening to the levels of measured happiness?

12b. What are the reasons for this?

13. Draw or summarise the steps in the treadmill.

14. One solution which many countries use to deal with increasing waste is to burn it. What problem is associated with burning rubbish?

15. How does recycling help?

16. Why is recycling not enough? (Clue – How many rubbish bins are needed to produce one bin of recycled materials?)