

Eco-friendly Fashion Accessories

Individual and Group

Time: 1 hour

Purpose

To learn about how a product can be made from reclaimed materials. This can reduce the environmental impact of the new product.

Background to the task

Advertising campaigns try to persuade us to buy expensive designer clothes and accessories, many of which use materials and production processes that harm the environment. Your task is to design and make an accessory from reclaimed materials – something that is useful (like a case for an MP3 player or CD player, a pencil case) or just fun (necklace, ankle bracelet), or both.

Carrying out the task

You have one lesson to do this. Examine the materials in front of you. Decide what you might make in the time available. Discuss this in small groups (2 or 3 people) to get useful comments from other students. Go for it!

Recording results

Keep a note of your key *design decisions*. For homework you are to produce a one page design sheet and evaluation. Include a paragraph on why it is important to reclaim or recycle materials.

Teachers' notes

Materials needed

1. Reclaimed textiles, rubber (inner tubes), soft plastics, video tape, etc.
2. (If possible) Key rings, jewellery fastenings, variety of fastenings (e.g. buttons, Velcro).

Possible extension activities

Most children at KS3 will understand the environmental dimension of sustainable development and be able to see the sense of reclaiming and reusing materials. But knowledge does not necessarily change behaviour!

- Hold a debate in class as to whether the students would want to buy products made from reclaimed materials. If not, why not? What would need to be done to get them to consider buying products made from reclaimed or recycled materials? There are some cool products on www.informationinspiration.org.uk – go to the 'Inspiration' part and then to 'Recycled materials' or 'textiles'.
- Get them to think about the economic and social impacts of making products from reclaimed materials. Suggest they search the STEP website www.stepin.org and <http://www.informationinspiration.org.uk/> for ideas. The Sustainable Design Website also has ideas on the economic and social dimensions of sustainable design www.sda-uk.org. Get into the students' section of the SDA site and click onto the



Sustain-a-Balls logo

- More able students could record more design work and produce a fuller design sheet and evaluation (more than one page). The evaluation should also have something on the economic and social impacts.

Stimulus materials

Some intriguing niche products made from recycled rubber can be viewed on www.zuss.com. We suggest that you download images from the accessories gallery rather than letting your students onto the site which has some rather risqué images.