



<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Title: "Airing out the Laundry"</b> The Garment &amp; Textile Industry in SE Asia</p> <p><b>Short description:</b> <i>Who made that new shirt you bought the other day? Where does that person live? How many hours per day and how many days per week does that person work and how much money do they make for their work?</i></p> <p><i>What where did the cotton for the shirt come from? What chemicals were used in the process of growing the cotton, processing it, dyeing the fabric, etc.? What consequences might that have for the workers and the environment?</i></p> <p><i>What about your own use of the shirt? How long do you usually keep a shirt before getting a new one? What do you do with your old clothes? Do you throw them away or donate them? Do you wear them until they fall apart or do you 're-purpose them' (in other words, make something else out of the old clothes)? When you want or need new clothes, do you buy brand new clothes at a store, peruse the aisles of second-hand stores for diamonds in the rough, make your own clothes, or do something else entirely?</i></p> <p><i>With the exception of a couple secluded 'special' beaches or a section of the Danube near Vienna, we all wear clothes, right? And apart from a few industrious people making their own clothes, we generally buy our t-shirts, pants, underwear, jackets, etc. in a store somewhere. But do we really know the story behind each article of clothing? In the 2nd Challenge of the 2014/2015 school year, we heard that many articles of clothing that you have were made in Southeast Asia. Since that is where we are now, it's the perfect opportunity to see just how clean or dirty this industry's clothes really are!</i></p> <p><b>Concrete Challenge and tasks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Research, discuss, and report back to us about the following five aspects associated with the textile and garment industry (for more information, please visit the Challenge website): Life cycle, working conditions, environmental concerns, Fair Trade, buying 'local'</i></li> <li>• <i>What do you want to learn more about? Choose one of the three options listed on the Challenge website for us to carry out here in Southeast Asia. If you're feeling adventurous, try to carry out one or more of the options yourself!</i></li> <li>• <i>What can you tell us about the textile and garment industry in SE Asia?</i></li> <li>• <i>Compare the working conditions and environmental burden connected to the industry in SE Asia versus your country.</i></li> <li>• <i>How many people work in the clothing industry?</i></li> <li>• <i>How many articles of clothing are purchased per year in your country and how many are discarded in the same time?</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Skills and learning objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>You should be able to describe the life cycle of an article of clothing and understand the complexities behind its production.</i></li> </ul>	<p>Age group: 16-18 years old</p> <hr/> <p>Duration: 1-2 hours (in school) <i>More time as necessary, esp. if extracurricular activities are planned</i></p> <hr/> <p>Topic area(s): <i>(select one or more of the following)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Biodiversity &amp; Agriculture</li> <li>- Climate</li> <li>- Education</li> <li>- Energy</li> <li>- <b>Governance X</b></li> <li>- Mobility</li> <li>- <b>Social X</b></li> <li>- <b>Sustainable economics X</b></li> <li>- <b>Resources X</b></li> </ul> <hr/> <p>Methods used: <i>Our suggestion: Small group work (divided among the 5 'aspects' mentioned in the Challenge). Summarizing discussion and/or presentations by the groups for the whole class. Results to be sent via email or as PowerPoint.</i></p> <hr/> <p>Appropriate for the following school subjects: <i>Economics, social studies, geography, natural sciences, English, world history</i></p> <hr/> <p>Required materials: <i>Internet, computer</i></p>
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- You should be able to name several environmental and social issues that are associated with the production of clothing.
- You should understand what the aim of Fair Trade is for the garment and textile industry.
- You should be able to name several ways that you can personally influence the impact of clothing on people and the environment (from your purchase/trade/creation and use of clothing to using your voice as a citizen and consumer).

#### Connection to the curriculum:

- Natural and human resources
- Social studies and world history
- Economics and labor rights

#### Links and opportunities to go more in-depth:

Background and up-to-date information:

- [Fair Wear Foundation](#). Watch a short [video](#) that describes the clothing supply chain.
- [YES! Magazine](#)'s article explaining the history of the global garment industry: [Garment Manufacturing and Human Rights: A journey into the garment industry, from Elizabethan England to Rana Plaza](#).
- Check out the [Clean Clothes Campaign](#) and its list of [publications](#) for lots of great sources
- [Asia Monitor Resource Centre](#). Watch their video [Cambodia: A Year after the Crackdown](#) to learn more about events that took place between December 2013 and January 2014
- The book "No Logo" (1999) by Naomi Klein.

Blogs, activist perspectives, and alternatives:

- [What \(not\) to wear](#), a student-led initiative launched in the wake of the Rana Plaza factory collapse in 2013
- [Dressed & Undressed, Clothed & Stripped](#)
- [Beautiful Clothes, Ugly Reality](#), a video about the Cambodia strikes and crackdown
- [United Students Against Sweatshops](#)
- Read the article [The Slow Fashion Movement](#) by [Not Just a Label](#)
- [Slow Fashioned](#)

#### Further suggestions for in-school and/or extracurricular activities:

- For those of you who might be interested, try organizing a 'clothes swap party' (in class or at home) to trade your 'old' clothes that are still in good condition, for other students' unused clothes. Click [here](#) for a description of how to organize your own.
- Another extracurricular activity could be 're-purposing' old, worn-out and/or unused clothes.

#### Deadline for responses:

We look forward to your responses by Friday, the **27th of March, 2015!**