

SUSTAINABLE FASHION

# EDUCATION TOOLKIT



[www.TakeActioninFashion.com](http://www.TakeActioninFashion.com)

**A WARM**

**WELCOME**

## **THANK YOU**

for being a part of the sustainable fashion conversation. Fashion is one of the most dangerous and highest polluting industries, yet it's one we don't often talk about, and contribute to every single day. By raising awareness of the environmental and social impacts, while providing the resources needed to make tangible change, we can all be a part of the solution.

In this educational toolkit, there are not only resources related to sustainable fashion, but even more dedicated to other social issues with strong intersectionality- such as child labor, women's empowerment, and economic inequality.

This is a master document, ideal for anyone to pull pieces from to create their own curriculum. It includes resources for varying age groups, learning styles, and teaching methods, and the different pieces can be pulled together in millions of unique ways to create a tool that is perfect for your educational needs. Please feel free to reach out with any questions or comments, and thank you for doing your part to Take Action in Fashion.

*Miranda Moore*



## TAKE ACTION IN FASHION



# ABOUT US

---

*Changing how we **buy**, **wear**, and **think** about clothing through **awareness**, **representation**, and **engagement**.*



*Take Action in Fashion is an initiative that partners with countless sustainable fashion brands, nonprofit organizations, and like-minded individuals to support the mission statement above. We are dedicated to both raising awareness of and providing solutions for the environmental and social impacts of the fashion industry. Please go to our website or contact our founder, Miranda, for more information on how to get involved.*

**1 SUSTAINABILITY &  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

**2 FAST FASHION**

**3 CHILD LABOR**

**4 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION &  
PRESERVATION**

**5 WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT**

**6 UNEMPLOYMENT &  
LACK OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES**

**7 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

**8 EARTH DAY &  
TAKE ACTION IN FASHION DAY**

**9 WORKSHEETS &  
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

---

**SUSTAINABLE FASHION**

**SUSTAINABILITY &  
SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

**TAKE ACTION IN FASHION**

---

# SUSTAINABILITY & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

## INTRODUCTION

---

Sustainability is the preservation of resources to maintain an ecological balance, and is made up of three pillars: the economy, society, and the environment.

Sustainability was the foundation for the United Nations's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These goals address the many challenges that our global society is facing, including poverty, inequality, climate change, ecological damage, and peace and justice.

Sustainable development focuses on meeting the needs of the population without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, and the SDGs are a recognition by all nations of the world that ending poverty and other inequalities must be tackled while we also deal with climate change and environmental preservation.

Teaching about both sustainability and sustainable development is important because it gives students the chance to take responsibility for their actions and contribute to the United Nations's ultimate goal of a more sustainable future.

---

*Sustainability is, of course, a key part of learning about sustainable fashion. Additionally, the fashion industry is a part of many different Sustainable Development Goals.*

## LESSON PLANS

### TEACHING SUSTAINABILITY

Teach For America provides lesson plan ideas for students in grades Pre-K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12. While students in grade 2 will learn about why trees are important for people and where water goes when it “goes” away after a storm, students in grade 9 will learn about how pollution can be regulated to promote environmental justice!

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) provides resources for educators directly related to each of the seventeen sustainable development goals. For example, for SDG-1, an explanation of why education is crucial to achieving no poverty is included and multimedia educational resources, ideas for classroom activities, and pedagogical resources are offered for early childhood care and education, primary education, and secondary education.

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FROM AN EARLY AGE

The United Nations has a collection of student resources for learning about sustainable development. These resources include Thomas & Friends Life Lessons, Climate Action Superhero missions, the trivia game Freerice from WFP, and more. Educators who are looking to find a way for their students to learn about sustainability in a fun and engaging way should take a look!

### SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

Arizona State University (ASU) offers teacher resources for grades 6-9 that cover a variety of topics, including food systems sustainability, quality of life and well-being, decision-making for sustainability, etc. Students may participate in activities, such as mini debates and 1-2-3 presentations, and lessons on defining sustainability measuring their ecological footprint.

## LESSON PLANS

### 10 READY-TO-USE LESSON PLANS

BookWidgets provides 10 interactive and ready-to-use lesson plans on the Sustainable Development Goals. This resource recommends that educators first show students a video on the SDGs and then let students solve a jigsaw puzzle, practice the SDGs with flashcards or a hotspot image, pull the SDGs into a classroom discussion, play an SDG board game either physically or digitally, take a quiz to check their knowledge, and complete an SDG project!

### SDG ACADEMY

The SDG Academy has created many free online courses and educational materials on sustainable development and the SDGs. Some of their courses include Work and Employment for a Sustainable Future, Governance for Transboundary Freshwater Security, Climate Change: The Science and Global Impact, and Nature-Based Solutions for Disaster and Climate Resilience.

### BECOMING AGENTS FOR CHANGE

PBS NewsHour has put together a lesson plan on becoming agents for change through the Sustainable Development Goals. The lesson asks students to watch two videos, one in which they will explore each of the SDGs and another where they will learn about how failing infrastructure and climate change leaves many South Africans without water and then identify which SDGs apply to the story. After sharing in small groups and having a class discussion, they will read the article *America's Clean Water Crisis Goes Far Beyond Flint. There's No Relief in Sight*, participate in another class discussion, and re-examine the SDGs.



## ARTICLES

1

### **FOUR REASONS TO TEACH THE GOALS**

Participate Learning offers an article on their blog that discusses four reasons to teach the Sustainable Development Goals. The article explains how students should learn about the SDGs because they need to learn about the world, be active participants in the world they live in, grow empathy and compassion, and be inspired to take action!

2

### **GOALS FOR AND WITH CHILDREN**

UNICEF provides an article discussing how we can achieve the Sustainable Development Goals for and with children. The organization supports a “3As” approach: raising awareness, taking action, and holding decision makers accountable for progress. Therefore, the article describes each of these steps in detail and provides resources to help students and educators alike achieve them!

3

### **WHAT DOES "NO ONE LEFT BEHIND" MEAN?**

The United Nations Foundation has published an article in which the author asks Mara van Loggerenber, the UN Foundation’s Senior Manager of Policy Initiatives, for answers to the most common questions on the Sustainable Development Goals. Mara van Loggerenberg explains what “no one left behind” means in context of the SDGs, why the emphasis on leaving no one behind is significant, what success looks like, what some steps are that the international community needs to take to make sure no one is left behind, and more related topics.

4

### **UN CURRENT NEWS ON GOALS**

UN News offers a collection of global perspective human stories related to the SDGs. Topics of articles include desertification and drought destabilizing the well-being of 3.2 billion people; the Covid crisis pushing global unemployment over 200 million mark in 2022; and the UN chief calling for a global partnership to address Covid, climate change, and to achieve the SDGs.

## ARTICLES

5

### TEACHING SUSTAINABILITY

Vanderbilt University provides an article on teaching sustainability. The concepts focused on in this article include what sustainability is, tips for teaching sustainability, its interdisciplinary nature, teaching with place-based and project-based learning, and teaching with ecological footprints. For educators who are continuing to seek sustainability resources after finishing the article, there are Vanderbilt and local resources at the end of the article, including organizations and journals, books, blogs and podcasts, and more.

6

### WOMEN AND THE SDGS

UN Women provides an article on women and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that provides a gender snapshot of the progress on the SDGs and gender equality in the 2030 agenda. In addition, there is a video near the end of the article that explains the facts about gender equality and the SDGs.

7

### HOW TO MEET OUR 2030 GOALS

Springer Nature has published an editorial on getting the Sustainable Development Goals back on track. This article explains how at the current rate, most of the SDGs will not be met before going on to discuss how the 2030 agenda can get us back on track.

8

### 15 SUSTAINABILITY ACTIVITIES

Teach Starter provides fifteen sustainability activities and ideas for the classroom. Some examples include a rubbish bin sorting activity, a living things need energy presentation, and a mini-book on how we can help our planet.

9

### TEACHING KIDS ABOUT SUSTAINABILITY

EcoWatch offers information on how to teach kids about sustainability. The article provides tips for teaching both younger kids and more mature audiences about sustainable living before discussing several resources that can be used in the classroom.

## INFORMATIONAL SITES

1

### THE 17 GOALS

The United Nations provides an abundance of information and resources on each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. For educators who want their students to learn about the SDGs through a webquest, this site would be perfect!

2

### TOP 5 EXAMPLES OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Because sustainable development can be defined in a few different ways, the Borgen Project offers explanations of five examples of sustainable development to help students further understand the subject. These examples include solar energy, wind energy, crop rotation, efficient water fixtures, and green space.

3

### TAKE ACTION FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The United Nations provides a collection of resources on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). With this resource, students can read about or watch a video on the seventeen SDGs and also access additional materials, such as related news and videos, on any goal.

4

### WHAT IS SUSTAINABILITY?

youmatter offers informational articles on both sustainability and sustainable development. In this first resource, students will learn the definition, principles, and examples of sustainability.

5

### WHAT IS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT?

In the second resource, students will learn the definition, history, evolution, importance, and examples of sustainable development.

## CONCLUSION

*Teaching about sustainability and sustainable development is very important and has only become more so in recent years. With the resources above, students will gain a deeper understanding of these two related topics and recognize the measures they can take to contribute to a more sustainable future. Ensuring an understanding of sustainability and sustainable development is very important in teaching about sustainable fashion.*

---

SUSTAINABLE FASHION

# FAST FASHION

TAKE ACTION IN FASHION

---

# FAST FASHION

## INTRODUCTION

---

Fast fashion refers to “an approach to the design, creation, and marketing of clothing fashions that emphasizes making fashion trends quickly and cheaply available to consumers” (Merriam-Webster).

The environmental impacts of fast fashion are vast and include the depletion of non-renewable resources, the use of significant amounts of water and energy, and the emission of greenhouse gases. In fact, according to Business Insider, fast fashion production is responsible for 10% of the total global carbon emissions. Therefore, in recent years, there has been a call for fashion to become more sustainable.

Sustainable fashion takes environmental and socio-economic factors into consideration when clothing, shoes, and accessories are manufactured. Teaching students about fast fashion and sustainable production is important because they will be able to make a conscious decision to invest in a sustainable wardrobe to contribute to the ultimate goal of a more sustainable future for us all!

---

*This section is especially applicable when talking about social media, as the continuous rotation of trends has greatly contributed to the fast fashion industry.*

# LESSON PLANS

## GET REDRESSED

Redress is an environmental charity with a mission to prevent and transform textile waste in the fashion industry. Redress put together a lesson plan to introduce students to the issue of textile waste; encourage them to reflect on their own fashion consumption, clothing use, and disposal habits; and provide them with the knowledge and tools to take action. This lesson focuses on the polluting effects of clothes and possible solutions but will also support teachers who are teaching their students about the UN Sustainable Development Goals, specifically Goal 12 of Responsible Production and Consumption.

## RETHINKING FAST FASHION AFTER BANGLADESH

PBS LearningMedia offers an audio recording of an essay from Youth Radio where a teenager reflects on her buying and shopping habits. After touring Bangladesh and hearing stories about the local factory conditions, she returns to the United States determined not to buy clothes made in sweatshops along with raising awareness about fast fashion. This essay and its accompanying activity will help teachers start a discussion with students about consumerism and challenge them to research where their clothing came from and what living and working conditions are like in that country. For those who want to teach their students about the implications fast fashion has on the livelihoods of people in other countries, this lesson should be helpful!

## ARTICLES

1

### CAN FAST FASHION BE SUSTAINABLE?

Forbes provides an article discussing if fast fashion can be sustainable. The article first explains how the environment pays a high price for cheaper clothes before examining how the fast fashion industry can become more sustainable. A new business model, using alternative materials, supplying chain transparency, and utilizing new technologies are all considered.

2

### FAST FASHION & ITS IMPACT

Earth.org has published an article explaining how fast fashion has detrimental effects on the environment. The article discusses what fast fashion is and why it is bad, the environmental impacts of fast fashion (water, microplastics, energy), the social impacts of fast fashion, and “slow fashion.”

3

### HOW TO BREAK THE CYCLE

This article from Huffington Post describes how people can break the cycle of buying fast fashion when they know it is bad for the environment. The article outlines the fundamental problems with the fast fashion industry, why fast fashion is not the only culprit, and what the fix is.

4

### DESTROYING THE ENVIRONMENT

The New York Times provides an article on how fast fashion is destroying the planet. The author discusses the connection between fast fashion and global economic and climate patterns and crises using Fashionopolis: The Price of Fast Fashion and the Future of Clothes by Dana Thomas. From this article, readers will learn about the three sections of Thomas’s narrative in depth!

5

### PUTTING THE BRAKES ON FAST FASHION

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has published an article discussing the importance of putting the brakes on fast fashion. The article discusses the environmental and human cost of fast fashion as well as the fashion of the future. To help students understand more about the damage of fast fashion, teachers may also read through the press release UN Alliance For Sustainable Fashion Addresses Damage of ‘Fast Fashion’ with them!



# FAST FASHION

## INFORMATIONAL SITES

1

### **WHAT IS FAST FASHION?**

Green Strategy offers a brief page of information on sustainable fashion. The page offers a comprehensive definition of sustainable fashion that will help students more clearly understand the topic at hand.

2

### **THE IMPACT OF FAST FASHION ON THE ENVIRONMENT**

Princeton University provides information on the impact of fast fashion on the environment. The topics covered include excessive usage of water, plastic microfibers, usage of viscose, and excessive consumption.

3

### **UN ALLIANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE FASHION**

The website for the UN Alliance for Sustainable Fashion provides an abundance of information about their initiative and on fashion and sustainable development in general.

4

### **SUSTAINABILITY RESOURCES**

The Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA) has compiled a list of resources and information specific to fashion design and business sustainable strategies.

5

### **GOAL 12 - ENSURE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION**

The United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goal 12, which is to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns, is most closely aligned with this topic of fast fashion and sustainable development.

6

### **WHAT IS SUSTAINABLE FASHION?**

Green Dreamer provides an article on sustainable fashion, which explains why most fashion today is not sustainable and discusses the simple things people can look for to make their wardrobes more sustainable.

7

### **SUSTAINABLE MANUFACTURING**

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) offers information about sustainable manufacturing and the business case for sustainable manufacturing.

# FAST FASHION

# CONCLUSION

*Teaching about the fast fashion industry and sustainable production may seem like a difficult task at first glance, but it is not nearly as challenging as one may think. Drawing connections to other sections, such as child labor and women's empowerment, can help students understand the scope and more importantly the significance of sustainable fashion.*

---

SUSTAINABLE FASHION

# CHILD LABOR

TAKE ACTION IN FASHION

---

# CHILD LABOR

## INTRODUCTION

---

Child labor is defined as the “use of children in industry or business, especially when illegal or considered inhumane” (Oxford Dictionary). This term refers to work that interferes with a child’s ability to learn, endangering them emotionally and/or physically.

Though there are laws on child labor in the United States and several other countries, child labor still exists and is especially prevalent in developing nations.

In learning about child labor, students will also learn how they can spread awareness and fight against it.

---

*Child labor is, unfortunately, common in the fashion industry. This makes it an important topic to talk about when talking about the social impacts of the industry.*

# LESSON PLANS

### **WHAT IS CHILD LABOR?**

TeacherVision has put together a lesson plan which teaches students about child labor and encourages them to take action. With this lesson, classes will first discuss the International Labor Organization's definition of child labor, learn about the types of jobs children have historically performed, and finally, complete a project related to combatting child labor and spreading the word about its injustices.

### **GIVING A VOICE TO CHILD LABORERS**

ReadWriteThink offers a lesson on giving a voice to child laborers, which includes a preview, standards, resources and preparation, an instructional plan, and related resources. Through multiple sessions, students will be asked to write a monologue from the viewpoint of factory reformers, supporters of child labor, and factory workers during the Industrial Revolution. By the time students have finished the last session, they will have learned about child labor in the past and present!

### **CHILD LABOR AND THE BUILDING OF AMERICA**

The Library of Congress provides a lesson overview, preparation, procedure, and evaluation on child labor in the United States. The lesson itself contains an introduction and background on child labor, a primary source analysis of documents and photographs, a guided practice, and a student project. Students will gain a deeper understanding of child labor after the Industrial Revolution, during the Progressive Era, and in modern-day societies around the world.

# CHILD LABOR

## INFORMATIONAL SITES

1

### **HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH**

The Human Rights Watch has put together a collection of videos and news reports on child labor. From these resources, students will learn about child labor and human rights issues around the globe.

2

### **WHAT IS CHILD LABOR?**

The International Labour Organization provides a definition of child labor and examples of its worst forms, including those considered hazardous child labor. The information here will help students grasp the gravity of this issue, which is often overlooked by the masses.

3

### **CHILD LABOR ON FARMS**

The Rainforest Alliance provides information on child labor in the agricultural industry, which is strongly linked to textile production. This resource includes "6 Pathways Towards Child Labor Free Farms".

4

### **LAWS, DEFINITIONS, & INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION**

HISTORY offers valuable information on child labor, including child labor in the United States, the Industrial Revolution, immigration and child labor, child labor reform, the Great Depression, automatization and education, and child labor today. Additionally, it includes a collection of photos, which will help students understand how appalling and horrifying child labor truly is.

5

### **CHILD SLAVERY**

This resource from Anti-Slavery provides updated statistics for child labor, child slavery, and child trafficking, while explaining what distinguishes each of these and how they interact with one another.

6

### **FACTS ON CHILD LABOR**

GoodWeave provides statistics and fast facts surrounding child labor.

# CHILD LABOR

## CONCLUSION

*Teaching students about child labor is important, even though its sensitive nature may not make it an easy subject matter to teach. We still have a long way to go regarding child labor reform and enforcing those child labor laws already in place. However, learning about an issue is the first step in taking a stand against it! The resources above will help educators teach their students about the most salient aspects of child labor, and integrate those lessons into teaching about the fashion industry's need for sustainable reform.*

---

SUSTAINABLE FASHION

**ENVIRONMENTAL  
CONSERVATION  
& PRESERVATION**

TAKE ACTION IN FASHION

---



# ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION & PRESERVATION

## INTRODUCTION

---

In recent years, we have begun to recognize the importance of conserving and preserving our environment for future generations. Conservation is the care and protection of the earth so it can persist for future generations through using natural resources responsibly. Though the word “conservation” is used interchangeably with “preservation” by many, preservation attempts to keep the earth safe through protecting the environment from harmful human activities.

By teaching about environmental conservation and preservation, educators will give students the opportunity to learn about the two different approaches to keeping our planet safe and the importance of protecting our earth which will ideally help them become more engaged outside the classroom regarding confronting environmental issues!

---

*Fashion is one of the highest polluting industries, contributing greatly to carbon emissions and polluting our waterways. Controlling overconsumption in the fashion industry is key to environmental conservation and preservation.*

## LESSON PLANS

### ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) offers lesson plans and corresponding activity sheets for educators teaching students in grades PreK-3, 3-6, and 6-12. The collections of resources cover various topics under the umbrella of environmental education. For students in grades 3-6 and 6-12, there are three lesson plans on recycling and conservation. These lessons include an aluminum can challenge, a word search, and a lesson that focuses on where garbage goes and the reduction of the waste stream.

### PRESERVATION IN THE PROGRESSIVE ERA

PBS LearningMedia provides a teaching guide on exploring environmental preservation in the Progressive Era. This teaching guide offers educators a specific primary source set and corresponding discussion questions, classroom activities, and primary source analysis tools. For educators who are interested in teaching their class about how events, such as American industrialization and the expansion of railroads, during the Progressive Era led to increased pollution and environmental destruction and spurred environmental moments calling for either conservation or preservation, this resource will be extremely helpful!

### ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION LESSONS

Share My Lesson has put together a collection of environment and conservation lessons and activities for students at the high school level. Some examples of topics covered in these resources include the 6Rs of sustainability, natural hazards, the Haiti earthquake, and energy use. To access any of these lessons, educators will only have to make a free account for the website.

## ARTICLES

1

### WHY CONSERVATION IS IMPORTANT

Pure Leisure Group offers three reasons as to why conservation is so important, which include protecting wildlife, the earth, and human health. This brief article may serve as a good introduction to the topic of environmental conservation and its importance for educators who are planning a more detailed in-class lesson and would prefer if their students had an idea of why conservation work is so important before walking into class!

2

### WHY WE SHOULD TEACH CONSERVATION

The Natural Habitat Adventures and World Wildlife Fund (WWF) has published an article on why we should teach the next generation about conservation. The article explains why it is important for modern kids to learn about conserving wild places and protecting wild animals, which include the fact that it is their planet too, they are disconnected from nature, and they can make a difference.

3

### EMPOWERING STUDENTS

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH) provides a brief article on teacher tips to empower students to protect the environment. The article discusses how teaching about climate change and environmental protection can be difficult and quotes a few educators across the country as they describe how they tackle the tough and complicated subjects in their classrooms.

## INFORMATIONAL SITES

1

### CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION

National Geographic provides encyclopedic entries on both conservation and preservation in their resource library. Reading through these two brief informational articles will give students an understanding of the similarities and differences between conservation and preservation.

2

### CONSERVATION: HISTORY & FUTURE

EnvironmentalScience.org offers an article explaining the history and future of conservation. The article discusses the definition of conservation, the connection between conservation, ethics, and philosophy, conservation as restoration, the history of conservation, subdivisions of conservation, conservation success stories so far, and conservation areas of concern.

3

### HOW CAN WE ALL HELP CONSERVE NATURE?

Frontiers Media offers an article that explains how we can all help conserve. This article discusses how protecting nature is ensuring our future and what actions we can take to help conserve nature. These actions are grouped into three main categories, which include actions to reduce our ecological footprint, actions to conserve nature, and actions that help us connect with nature.

## CONCLUSION

*Teaching students about environmental conservation and preservation is a very important task and is becoming increasingly relevant in today's day and age.*

*While conservation and preservation differ in the ways that they approach keeping the environment safe, they both have the common goal of protecting the earth for future generations, so hopefully learning about both of these methods will make students think twice. In the best case scenario, students may even go on to advocate for more environmentally-friendly policies in their schools and beyond!*

---

SUSTAINABLE FASHION

# WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

TAKE ACTION IN FASHION

---

# WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

## INTRODUCTION

---

Women's empowerment comes in many different forms. At its core, empowering women is to give women the equal right to participate in all aspects of society. It is boosting their self-esteem, accepting their viewpoints, educating them, and ultimately equipping them to make life-determining decisions. Empowering women is essential to the health and development of our communities.

Teaching about women's empowerment is important because the only way for women to become empowered is for the youth to become educated on this matter and take action to support women across the globe!

---

*Over 80% of garment workers are women. Women's empowerment is key to improving conditions for garment workers.*

# LESSON PLANS

## FILM MODULES & CURRICULUM

PBS LearningMedia has put together a collection of activities and supporting video modules that encourage students to examine the key social and political issues impacting women around the world. Students will explore the topics of social change and social justice, equal rights, and civic engagement. They will also learn about international struggles and understand better how to take an active role in issues affecting their own local communities.

## GIRLS EQUITY & EMPOWERMENT

The Making Caring Common Project from Harvard Graduate School of Education provides a compilation of websites that offer useful programs, research, resources, and/or activities to promote girls' and women's equity and empowerment. Accompanying each website is an explanation of its contents. The programs and resources listed include the Geena Davis Institute, Girls Inc., Girls Leadership, Girls Write Now, and many more!

## EMPOWERING WOMEN: EMPOWERING CHILDREN

UNICEF provides a middle and high school unit introducing gender equality with a focus on empowering women and children. This lesson includes the opening activity What Do You Know About Women In The World?, video Gender Equality Can Help Children, a discussion to help students make connections, and a final homework assignment. In the lesson, students will become familiar with the terms "gender equality" and "gender inequality," understand the basic facts about gender inequalities worldwide, and ultimately identify main ideas about gender equality in a video.



# WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

## ARTICLES

1

### **EMPOWER & CELEBRATE WOMEN - SDG 5**

Participate Learning provides an article explaining four ways to empower and celebrate women in the classroom using Sustainable Development Goal #5: achieve gender equality and empower all women and goals. The article suggests teachers share positive stories of influential women through history curriculum, promote gender expression in the classroom, incorporate books into class written about women by women, and encourage students to share personal experiences about women who have inspired them. In each explanation, there are resources teachers can download and use in their classrooms!

2

### **7 WAYS TO EMPOWER WOMEN & GIRLS**

World Vision offers a brief article that explains 7 easy ways to empower women and girls. This article emphasizes the significance of providing clean water, supporting girls and women in crisis, using our voices to help keep girls in school, mentoring a girl close to home, investing in a small business owner, helping a new mom, and telling the women in our lives that we care. For educators who want their students to understand more about how they can empower the women and girls in their communities and beyond, this resource will be very helpful!

3

### **HOW EDUCATION EMPOWERS WOMEN**

The Global Campaign for Education in the United States provides a blog post discussing 5 reasons why education empowers women and girls. This blog post talks about how education decreases women's poverty, gives women more employment opportunities, leads to fewer unintended pregnancies and delayed marriage, improves women's health, and increases women's political participation. Educators who are looking for their students to grasp just how big of a role education plays in the empowerment of women should take a look at this resource!

4

### **ESSENTIAL TO GLOBAL PROGRESS**

The United Nations (UN) provides an article discussing how women's empowerment and gender equality are "essential to global progress" in celebration of International Women's Day.

# WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

## INFORMATIONAL SITES

1

### **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 5**

The United Nations offers a page dedicated to the Sustainable Development Goal 5, which is to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. This page has an abundance of information, infographics, related news, and related videos all centered around gender equality and women's empowerment!

2

### **UN WOMEN**

UN Women is the United Nations entity dedicated to gender equality and women's empowerment. Their website offers plenty of information related to leadership and political participation, economic empowerment, ending violence against women, peace and security, humanitarian action, and many more related topics!

3

### **GENDER EQUALITY & WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT**

USAID provides information and resources on gender equality and women's empowerment, specifically related to women's economic empowerment, gender-based violence prevention and response, and gender and Covid-19.

# WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

## CONCLUSION

*Teaching about women's empowerment is very important. Too many girls and women are not given the rights or the means to make their own life choices and participate in the aspects of society that so many of us take for granted. While teaching about women's empowerment, it is important that educators discuss the role of economic empowerment in the fight for women's rights and gender equality. By providing women with the training and education required to find a job and earn a stable income, they will become economically empowered and therefore have more agency over their own lives. Since this is not happening in all countries around the world, women are not economically empowered and this contributes to the overall lack of women's empowerment we are seeing!*

---

SUSTAINABLE FASHION

**UNEMPLOYMENT &  
LACK OF ECONOMIC  
OPPORTUNITIES**

TAKE ACTION IN FASHION

---

# UNEMPLOYMENT & LACK OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

## INTRODUCTION

---

Unemployment and lack of economic opportunity have always been present, but the recent pandemic has exacerbated inequalities and brought these issues to the forefront.

Both issues have a significant impact on individuals, families, communities, and the nation as a whole. However, unemployment and economic opportunity are unequally distributed and affect minority groups more heavily than others.

Teaching about unemployment and lack of economic opportunity is important because students should be given the opportunity to learn about issues that plague their communities so that they can ideally advocate for change.

---

*The lack of economic opportunities has resulted in people accepting jobs with low wages and unsafe working conditions. This is common in the fashion industry and contributes greatly to the need for sustainable reform.*

## LESSON PLANS

### UNEQUAL UNEMPLOYMENT

Teaching Tolerance provides a lesson on unequal unemployment which will have students analyze and interpret unemployment rates across different states and three racial groups, including Hispanics, African Americans, and whites. This lesson contains objectives, essential questions, a list of materials, vocabulary terms, a suggested procedure, and an extension activity.

### THE UNEMPLOYMENT GAME

EconEdLink has put together an unemployment game to help students understand the unemployment rate statistic, the labor force participation statistic, and labor markets. In this economics lesson, educators will utilize a slideshow, unemployment game cards, an interactive unemployment rate, and more to make learning about unemployment more engaging for students!

### UNEMPLOYMENT - MACROECONOMICS

Khan Academy provides a lesson summary on unemployment which includes a lesson overview, key terms, key takeaways, key equations, common misperceptions, and discussion questions. This lesson summary is one of the resources in the site's unemployment series, so for educators who are looking for more in-depth videos to use before introducing this particular article, there are two on the unemployment rate primer, natural, cyclical, structural, and frictional unemployment rates. Educators should note that these resources were created for AP Macroeconomics, so unlike other resources recommended on this page, they are math-based and tailored towards helping students learn the information for the exam.

## ARTICLES

1

### HOW TEENS VIEW ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

CNBC recently published an article explaining how most U.S. teens believe there is a lack of economic opportunity based on race, ethnicity and gender. This article discusses how teens agree the U.S. has a problem with equal economic opportunity, the solutions teens see and who they think is responsible, and what teens can do now to set themselves up for future success. For educators teaching in middle or high school classrooms, it would be beneficial to share this article with students because the opinions come from their peers and all the information is tailored to their age group!

2

### UNEMPLOYMENT IN 2022

This News Release from the United States Department of Labor includes the most updated statistics and data on employment in the United States. These trends can be used to help explain our economy as well as unemployment and lack of economic opportunities.

3

### RACIAL AND REGIONAL INEQUALITY

Brookings offers an article on how racial and regional inequality affect economic opportunity. The article talks about how many African Americans live in low-income communities that do not provide them with the opportunity to advance themselves economically due to U.S. policies. Two maps, a Hamilton Project paper, and recent research are referenced while the author discusses the regional concentration of the African American population, economic mobility, and the connection of racial and regional inequality.

4

### RECESSION DUE TO COVID-19

The Washington Post has published an article on how the Covid-19 recession is the most unequal in modern U.S. history. The article focuses on how the pandemic has most significantly affected low-wage minority workers, specifically hitting the service sector the hardest and impacting Black women, Black and Hispanic men, and mothers. It also discusses what is next for unemployment and possible economic recovery.

## INFORMATIONAL SITES

1

### GUIDE TO UNEMPLOYMENT

Investopedia provides a guide to unemployment. This piece offers information on what unemployment is, understanding unemployment, unemployment by state, types of unemployment, how to measure unemployment, the history of unemployment, and more.

2

### THE COST OF UNEMPLOYMENT TO THE ECONOMY

Investopedia offers an article on the cost of unemployment to the economy, describing the costs to the individual, the society, and the country.

3

### IMPROVING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY IN THE US

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities provides the testimony of Jared Bernstein, a Senior Fellow on the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, before the Joint Economic Committee on improving the economic opportunity in the United States. His testimony covers opportunity barriers and their causes, how public policy can push for greater opportunity, policies that would diminish opportunity, and more related topics.



## CONCLUSION

*Teaching about unemployment and lack of economic opportunity may be difficult because they are sensitive topics depending on if students have personal experience with them. Educators should be sure to have a discussion with students and remind them that they can opt out of any activities that make them feel uncomfortable. On that note, educators should also tailor lessons to the needs of their students and classrooms if they are aware of any connection they may have to the topic. However, the lesson plans, articles, informational sites, and multimedia resources above should be relatively careful and thoughtful but also informative in the way these topics are explained.*

---

**SUSTAINABLE FASHION**

# **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

**TAKE ACTION IN FASHION**

---

# ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

## INTRODUCTION

---

Environmental justice is “the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies” (EPA).

Unfortunately, in the U.S., low-income and colored communities are disproportionately affected by environmental issues, including air pollution and climate change. The ultimate goal of environmental justice is to ensure that all people are fairly and equally affected by environmental policies.

Teaching about environmental justice is important because in order to become informed citizens who take actions against inequalities in our society, students need to learn about how environmental issues negatively affect certain communities.

---

*Different populations are affected disproportionately by the environmental impacts of the fashion industry, making environmental justice key in these conversations.*

# LESSON PLANS

## **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE & SUSTAINABILITY**

Interdisciplinary Teaching about Earth for a Sustainable Future has put together some resources to help educators bring the topic of environmental justice to their classrooms. This page provides pedagogic guidance and effective strategies for teaching about environmental justice. Each strategy is accompanied by an explanation and either example courses and activities or ideas and resources. Materials on teaching controversial topics are also provided. Educators seeking guidance on how to integrate the topic of environmental justice into their curriculums will find this resource helpful!

## **CONSTRUCTING AN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PLAN**

This guide will walk educators through how to construct an environmental justice lesson plan. The content includes recognizing the importance of environmental justice education, knowing your audience, establishing your goals, engaging your students, going with the flow when modifying your lesson plan, and understanding the evolution of the lesson plan. For educators who are looking to create their own lesson plan, this guide will come in handy!

## **TALKING AND TEACHING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

Learning To Give has put together a brief resource on talking and teaching environmental justice. This resource contains an explanation of environmental justice and injustice, information about how students can impact environmental justice in their communities, and links to a grassroots environmental organization and several interactive sources to help students identify environmental risks in their local communities.

# ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

## ARTICLES

1

### ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE WAKE-UP CALL

The New York Times has published a brief article on the environmental justice wake-up call. After George Floyd's unjust death this past summer, environmental activists used his last few words of "I can't breathe" as a way to address the disproportionate impact of air pollution and other environmental hazards in communities of color. The author recognizes that the issue of environmental injustices faced by low-income communities and communities of color has gained attention in Washington, but there is still a long way to go. Overall, this article would be helpful for educators who want to emphasize to their students that environmental injustice and racial inequality go hand in hand!

2

### TWO DIFFERENT REALITIES

CBS News provides an article on why America needs environmental justice. There are so many ways in which inequality harms minority communities. Air pollution, disease, and climate change are no exception. This article includes an interview with Peggy Shepard, the co-founder of We Act for Environmental Justice. Shepard explains the term "environmental racism," discusses how environmental issues fuel racial inequality, offers examples of how communities of color are disproportionately impacted by environmental issues, talks about the Green New Deal, and more.

3

### ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE MOVEMENT

The NRDC has published an article on the environmental justice movement. Topics covered in the article include the spark of the movement, the facts of environmental racism, ally organizations of the movement, national recognition of environmental justice, and the strong forces for environmental protection in our communities.

4

### ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE & HEALTH

This additional article from the NRDC discusses ensuring environmental justice and health protection in the U.S. The author talks about the Biden promises and why they matter, how the new administration should address environmental justice and health crises, and more. For educators who want their students to read a current article that discusses environmental issues and how the new administration may address them, this article is one they should take a look at!

# ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

## INFORMATIONAL SITES

1

### **WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE?**

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIH) provides information on environmental justice for kids. This article explains what environmental justice means, the unhealthy environments that environmental issues create, and what people can do about the fact that racial and ethnic minorities are disproportionately affected by these issues. For educators who are trying to teach younger children about this topic, NIH has put together this great resource that will offer them information in a manner that is easy to understand!

2

### **LEARN ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has put together a combination of information on environmental justice and resources that educators and students can use to further investigate the subject. From this page, students will be able to learn about what environmental justice is, how EPA works for environmental justice, and the specific laws and executive orders that are related to environmental justice.

3

### **NAACP ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE JUSTICE**

The NAACP provides a brief informational article on environmental and climate justice. This page emphasizes how people of color are disproportionately affected by environmental and climate issues, which is one of the most important concepts for students to walk away with after learning about the topic.

# ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

## CONCLUSION

***Teaching about environmental justice is so important! If students walk away learning only one concept from one of these lessons, it should be that environmental issues disproportionately affect people in low-income communities and members of racial and ethnic minorities. In order to understand this topic, students need to comprehend that environmental injustice and inequality, especially racial inequality, are not mutually exclusive!***

---

SUSTAINABLE FASHION

**EARTH DAY &  
TAKE ACTION IN  
FASHION DAY**

TAKE ACTION IN FASHION

---



# EARTH DAY & TAKE ACTION IN FASHION DAY

## INTRODUCTION

---

Earth Day is celebrated annually on April 22nd. This day promotes environmental protection, encouraging people to keep a clean, healthy habitat for the species residing on this planet.

Take Action in Fashion Day is observed annually on April 24th. On this day in 2013, the Rana Plaza garment factory in Bangladesh collapsed, killing 1,132 people and left thousands more injured. This tragedy shocked people all across the world, and became a symbol of the fashion industry's impact and the desperate need for sustainable reform. This day ensures we continue to have intentional conversations about the fashion industry.

Teaching students about environmental activism and sustainable reform is important in order for future generations to preserve the land which we live on. Education is the most powerful catalyst for change.

---

*Earth Day is observed annually on April 22nd, and Take Action in Fashion Day is observed annually on April 24th.*

# LESSON PLANS

## CELEBRATE EARTH DAY

PBS LearningMedia put together a collection of videos, articles, and lesson plans for educators who want to bring environmental justice and awareness into their classroom on Earth Day. These resources explore the history of the environmental justice movement, the racial implications of pollution and waste disposal, and the role of new technologies in conservation efforts.

## LESSON PLANS, READING LISTS, & ACTIVITIES

For Earth Day, edutopia has put together a variety of lesson plans, activities, and reading, each of which contain a description of the content. Some personal favorites are the American Museum of Natural History Curriculum, which guides students through different science subjects, and the Nature Conservancy's Nature Works Everywhere, which has an abundance of different types of video lesson plans.

## OBSERVING TAKE ACTION IN FASHION DAY

On April 24, 2013, the Rana Plaza garment factory in Bangladesh collapsed. This collapse killed 1,132 people and left thousands more injured. This tragedy shocked people all across the world, and became a symbol of the fashion industry's impact and the desperate need for sustainable reform. Things have improved, but not enough. Take Action in Fashion Day, to be observed on April 24th each year, ensures we continue to have intentional conversations about the fashion industry. The website is updated annually with resources to observe, including this educational toolkit.

**EARTH DAY & TAKE ACTION IN FASHION DAY**

# **CONCLUSION**

*Using these National Days to celebrate environmental efforts and observe the necessity for sustainable reform in the fashion industry. Centering the curriculum around these days can be a great way to engage students and continue conversations!*

---

SUSTAINABLE FASHION

# **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES & WORKSHEETS**

TAKE ACTION IN FASHION

---

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

# BOOKS

Where Did My Clothes Come From?

Author: Christine Butterworth

Reading Age: 3-7 years

Slow Fashion (Let's Change the World)

Author: Megan Anderson

Reading Age: 3-5 years

The Fashion Fix

Author: Lexi Rees

Reading Age: 7-14 years

The Future of Fashion

Author: Tyler Little

Mend It, Wear It, Love It!

Author: Zoe Edwards

New to You

Author: Melody Fortier

Over-Dressed: The Shockingly High Cost of Fast Fashion

Author: Elizabeth L. Cline

Wear No Evil

Author: Greta Eagan

Fashionopolis: The Price of Fast Fashion and the Future of Clothes

Author: Dana Thomas

LET'S TALK ABOUT

# FASHION

## ASK YOURSELF...

What is fashion?

Are you a fashionable person?

Can you be fashionable without spending money?

Do you know who made your clothing?

Do you like to follow trends?

## WRITE YOUR ANSWERS HERE....

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

TAKE ACTION IN FASHION

# GOAL SETTING

*Set some goals for how you will become a more sustainable consumer.*

**S**

**SPECIFIC:** What do you want to achieve?

**M**

**MEASURABLE:** How will you know when you have reached your goal?

**A**

**ACHIEVABLE:** Is the goal within your power to accomplish?

**R**

**REALISTIC:** Can you realistically achieve your goal?

**T**

**TIME-BOUND:** When do you want to achieve your goal by?

## SUSTAINABLE FASHION

# GOAL SETTING

*Set some goals for how you will become a more sustainable consumer.*

<b>GOAL 1 :</b>	Why it's important :
	Measurable Outcome :

<b>GOAL 2 :</b>	Why it's important :
	Measurable Outcome :

<b>GOAL 3 :</b>	Why it's important :
	Measurable Outcome :

**REMEMBER TO KEEP YOUR GOALS 'SMART'! SPECIFIC, MEASURABLE, ACHIEVABLE, REALISTIC AND TIME-BOUND!**



30 DAY

# NO SPEND CHALLENGE

*The most sustainable clothing is the clothing we already own. Use this to keep track of your clothing spending habits in the no spend challenge!*

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30



YOUR

# FEEDBACK

IS IMPORTANT TO US

Did you enjoy this educational toolkit?

---

---

What did you most like about this educational toolkit?

---

---

How likely are you to recommend us to your family & friends?

unlikely **0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10** Definitely!

How would you rate the content and course materials?

Poor  Fair  Acceptable  Good  Excellent

If you have any other comments or suggestions, we would love to hear them below!

Email the completed form to [Miranda@TakeActioninFashion.com](mailto:Miranda@TakeActioninFashion.com)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK!

SUSTAINABLE FASHION

# EDUCATION TOOLKIT



[www.TakeActioninFashion.com](http://www.TakeActioninFashion.com)