



URBAN WORLD ACTIVITY

TRASHION  
SHOW



Jane Goodall's  
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# REUSE AND RECYCLE: RUN A TRASHION SHOW

This activity is all about reusing unwanted clothing, textiles and other items. About 5.9 million tonnes of waste are produced in Abu Dhabi each year, most of which ends up in landfills and dump sites. Running a Trashion Show will help your students look at the things they normally throw away and see what can be reused or recycled to reduce waste.

## IN THIS ACTIVITY YOU AND YOUR STUDENTS WILL:

- ▶ Learn about reusing and recycling unwanted items.
- ▶ Use their creativity to come up with new ways to reuse or 'upcycle' items into clothing.
- ▶ *Optional:* plan and run a "Trashion Show".
- ▶ *Optional:* create a slideshow about the project using e.g. Microsoft PowerPoint.

## OBJECTIVES

Carrying out this activity will help students see how much waste is created every day at home and at school, and how some of it can be reused or recycled. It will also help your students stretch their creative talents as they create new, exciting clothing out of unwanted items. But we do not just want talk, we want action! Show off your creations by running a school 'Trashion Show' to help raise awareness of reuse and recycling in Abu Dhabi.

## WHAT DO I NEED TO MAKE IT WORK?

Depending on what clothing the students want to make you will probably need access to sewing equipment. However if you want to keep things simple you can use tape, glue, pins or staples to hold the creations together (be careful of sharp edges). The materials your students will need to create each item will also need to be collected by them – this could be old pieces of clothing, textiles, old plastic bags, more or less anything!

## WHAT THINGS WILL MY STUDENTS CREATE?

- ▶ New clothes made from unwanted old clothing, textiles and other items.
- ▶ *Optional:* invitations and posters for the Trashion Show.
- ▶ *Optional:* the Trashion Show event itself.
- ▶ *Optional:* a slideshow of their project using e.g. Microsoft PowerPoint.

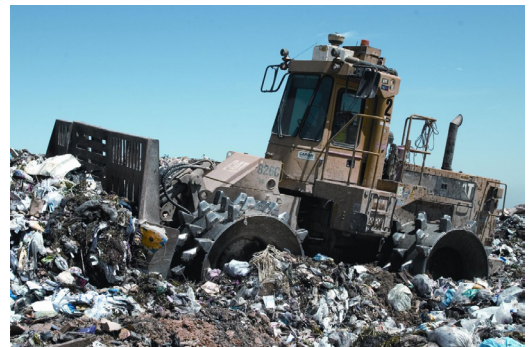
# INTRODUCTION TO WASTE

The first part of the activity is to understand what waste is and where it comes from, the problems of producing too much waste and what simple things can be done to reduce it. Here are some useful links for background information – just type the short link into your web browser’s address bar to access the resource:

- ▶ [goo.gl/76GJ0g](http://goo.gl/76GJ0g) – All about waste: what is it? What problems does it cause? How can it be avoided?
- ▶ [goo.gl/SSQ8tR](http://goo.gl/SSQ8tR) – Information about waste in Abu Dhabi.
- ▶ [goo.gl/NixUAu](http://goo.gl/NixUAu) – Ideas for waste reduction, reuse and recycling.

## WHAT IS WASTE AND WHERE DOES IT COME FROM?

- ▶ Get your students to think about what they do with toys and clothes they don’t want any more. Where do they end up? Are there other things they have thrown out because they don’t use them anymore?
- ▶ Ask your students about what other kinds of things get thrown away every day in the different places they live or visit (eg. at home, school, supermarket, playground).
- ▶ In 2007, 5.9 million tonnes of waste was produced in Abu Dhabi. Most of this went to landfill sites. Discuss with your students where their waste goes. If everything ended up



**Landfill site** – By Ropable (Own work) [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons

at a landfill site or a dump, how would this affect them, their town/city and the environment? If you piled all the waste from one year up in a single heap, how high would it be? We reckon it could make a cone of rubbish 230m tall, with a base area of 212,000m<sup>2</sup> – that’s the height of the smaller Nation Tower ([goo.gl/IMN3Bs](http://goo.gl/IMN3Bs)) and 1.3 times bigger than Mushrif Central Park ([goo.gl/g6jmT6](http://goo.gl/g6jmT6))!

## REUSE AND RECYCLE.

We can’t totally stop making waste, but we can reduce, reuse and recycle!

- ▶ Reduce by buying less and buying things with less packaging.
- ▶ Reuse by donating viable unwanted goods to charity shops and organizations, reusing shopping bags and cardboard boxes, using empty glass jars as storage containers and more...
- ▶ Recycle waste such as textiles, glass, paper, metal and plastics so that it can be reprocessed and made into new products.

Your students can think about what kinds of things can be reused or recycled to avoid throwing them away. Ask them to list some thing they find at home that might get thrown away and think about how they might be reused as they are or recycled into something new.

## MAKE SOME 'TRASHION'

Changing the way we all think about waste and the things we don't want anymore is important and can help save our planet. 'Trashion' is a great way to reuse and recycle some of the things we were going to throw away.

'Trashion' is fashion clothing made using recycled or reusable materials in a quirky and fresh way. Here are some images of trashion clothes made by schools in Europe.



Above images taken from [www.rootandshoots.org](http://www.rootandshoots.org) with permission

From left to right we have, a dress made from ties donated by actor Colin Firth who supports Roots and Shoots in the UK, dresses made from newspapers and magazines and a waistcoat made from bicycle inner tubes with shorts made from mail sacks.

More images can be found here: [goo.gl/UGdwQ2](http://goo.gl/UGdwQ2) and here [goo.gl/ZEcwXD](http://goo.gl/ZEcwXD)

## CREATE YOUR TRASHION

Using the list of items that can be reused or recycled your student made earlier as a starting point, get your students to come up with ideas for making some of these things into clothes. This is probably best done in groups so they can help each other plan and make each item.

- ▶ Sketching out their ideas is a great way of visualising their plans. Each group should decide on the best ideas to make into clothing. Get the students to think about the colours and textures provided by each different material and what colours and textures will work best for different outfits.
- ▶ Here are some suggestions: A wedding dress made of rolled up newspapers; embellish an old shirt and trousers with bottle tops for a new look, textured suit; fold and glue together different coloured food packets to make a stripy tie; weave together old belts as a waistcoat ... for more inspiration why not use Google image search using terms like 'recycled kids fashion'

- ▶ Collect the rubbish! Once the outfits have been sketched out, each group of students can start collecting the necessary bits of rubbish to reuse and recycle into clothes. Get their parents or carers involved where possible so they know what is going on and why their children are taking rubbish to school. Students may also want to collect more than they need as they might need some practice attempts.
- ▶ Now it's time to get making your outfits. Your students don't have to be tailors to make fun outfits from rubbish. Stick things together with sticky tape, glue or staples and get each group to nominate some people to be the models, then they can try things and adjust to fit.
- ▶ If you are really keen, here is a helpful YouTube clip showing how to make patterns from your old clothes. You can then use the patterns for your new trashion! [goo.gl/r0wc4c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r0wc4c)
- ▶ Here is a helpful link on how to make a skirt from bin bags: [goo.gl/8l67PK](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8l67PK)

## OPTIONAL: RUN A 'TRASHION SHOW'

Now all the clothes are made, why not tell the world what you've done! Set a date, book the school hall and invite the rest of the school, parents and local important people to come and see a 'Trashion Show'.

As an added touch, create invitations and posters advertising your show using some of the reusable and recyclable items your students have collected.

### LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

Set up the catwalk in the school hall, set up some lighting if you have some, play some suitably 'rubbish' music and show the crowd what you've made!

As part of the event make sure you tell your audience about how important reusing and recycling is for the planet and how easy it can be.

## TAKING IT FURTHER

Want to make the Trashion Show even more exciting? Why not appoint a panel of judges and hand out prizes for the best creations? And if that still is not exciting enough for you why not work with a couple of other local schools to put on a joint Trashion Show and have the judges decide which school did best?

## OPTIONAL: (CREATE A SLIDESHOW

If appropriate for the age group, you could get each student to create a slideshow presentation of their trashion project (using e.g. Microsoft PowerPoint) showing each stage of planning and creating. This is a great way of ensuring that the students really think about the project, and makes it easier to compare each student's contribution if you are using the trashion project as part of a marked course at school. Here is an example of a student's PowerPoint presentation from St. Christopher's C.E. High School, Accrington, UK: [goo.gl/NjeqkZ](http://goo.gl/NjeqkZ) and here is a template your students can use to create their own: [goo.gl/cCyhHk](http://goo.gl/cCyhHk)

## TELL US HOW YOU GOT ON!



Remember to take lots of photos of how you made the clothes and especially of the Trashion Show event itself if you run one. Then, let us know how your project went and how it has inspired people to reuse and recycle and we will post your story on the Roots & Shoots Abu Dhabi website! Just send us an email to [MrH@rootsnshoots.ae](mailto:MrH@rootsnshoots.ae) and let us know what you have been up to.

## WANT TO HELP IMPROVE THIS ACTIVITY?

This activity is a living document! Please help us by editing this activity to make it as good as possible. You can edit it by using this short link (just type it into your web browser's address bar): [goo.gl/zjC15f](http://goo.gl/zjC15f) – full instructions are provided. Any edits that can make this resource easier to use in the classroom or more applicable to life in Abu Dhabi are very welcome, so please follow the link and make your contribution!

## A(KNOWLEDGMENTS

Many thanks to Anne Morrison of St. Christopher's C.E. High School, Accrington, UK for her contributions to this activity and the provision of the example PowerPoint files.

## APPENDIX – LINKS TO OTHER PROGRAMMES

### LINKS TO ABU DHABI EDUCATION COUNCIL (ADEC) CURRICULUM STRANDS:

- ▶ **Physical World** – this activity is about reducing waste by reusing and recycling material. Reusing and recycling means less use of the Earth's natural resources to create new things, and less landfill.
- ▶ **Living World** – this activity is about reducing waste by reusing and 'upcycling' trash. By reducing waste we reduce the amount of landfill with immediate environmental effects. Also, upcycling means we can reduce the amount of new clothing produced, thus using less water and less energy.

### LINKS TO ENVIRONMENT AGENCY – ABU DHABI (EAD) PROGRAMMES:

#### KEY AREAS

- ▶ Direct link to **Waste** – this activity encourages people to reduce waste by recycling and upcycling waste materials.
- ▶ Indirect link to **Air** – Indirectly, recycling and upcycling means less new clothing produced and hence less energy used, so fewer emissions and better air quality.
- ▶ Indirect link to **Climate Change** – recycling and upcycling means less new clothing produced and hence less energy used, so fewer emissions and less impact on the climate.

#### CURRENT ENVIRONMENT (HABITATS):

- ▶ Indirect link to **Ground Water** – recycling and upcycling means less new clothing produced and hence less water used in their production.