

SDG8 Future of Fashion

MM4: Fashion Design Skills



MM4: Fashion Design Skills

Exploration and Experimentation

Lesson 4: Field Trip to a Local Charity Shop

Subjects: Art, Climate Action and Sustainable Development, Design, Enterprise, Home Economics, Maths, Science

Lesson Title and Summary: Field Trip to a Local Charity Shop

In this lesson, learners will develop the skills to purchase with potential. The act of buying a preloved garment is a small act of huge agency. Understanding that a preloved garment hanging on a rail is much more than a consumer experience is also liberating. Learners will gain insights and develop the skills which enable imaginative responses to purchasing and customising a garment places the garment in a position of potential.

Vocabulary: Fabric Identification, Pre-loved, Purchasing with Potential, Shopping Skills

In this lesson, the learner will:

- learn how to identify the main fabrics used in garment production.
- understand the difference between badly made and well-made garments
- how to purchase with potential.

Materials

- Worksheet: Fabric Identification
- Selection of garments with the following fabric types:
 - 100% Cotton
 - 100% wool
 - 100% silk
 - 100% polyester
 - 100% viscose
 - 100% acrylic
- Mixed fibre fabrics: cotton/polyester and acrylic/wool
- Guide sheet: Charity Shop Field Trip
- Paper/notebook for taking notes and glossary research

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



MM4: Fashion Design Skills

Lesson 4: Field Trip to Local Charity Shop



ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS

Activity 1: Fabric identification (15 mins)

1. Have the learners work in groups of 4 using the worksheet: Fabric Identification as a guide.
2. Different garments with the following fabric types:
 - 100% Cotton
 - 100% wool
 - 100% silk
 - 100% polyester
 - 100% viscose
 - 100% acrylic
 - Mixed fibre fabrics:
 - cotton/polyester
 - acrylic/wool
3. Give each group 2 garments to analyse.
4. Learners will explore how to identify the fibres in each garment.
5. Have the learners present their findings to the group

Activity 2: Charity shopping skills (7 minutes)

1. Watch the video Your Guide To Charity Shopping! 10 Years Of Tips & Tricks from 11:30min to 18:10min

Activity 3: CHARITY SHOPPING FIELD TRIP (30 minutes)

NOTE: Ideally this field trip should happen over a full afternoon.

1. Before you leave:
 - a. Make a list of the local charity shops in your area.
2. If there are a number of charity shops, have the learners work in small groups with the guidelines and use their phones to document their findings.
3. Learners can compare their findings in another class to see if there are any conclusions they can make about the fabrics they can find

REFLECTIVE EXERCISE: 3-2-1

- Three things they feel they have learnt from the exercise
- Two things they found most interesting and would like to explore more
- One – their opinion they have about the site / exercises

Use Post-its or a mentimeter survey - www.mentimeter.com - to gather reflections

MM4: Fashion Design Skills

Lesson 4: Field Trip to Local Charity Shop



EXTENSION / REDUCTION ACTIVITIES:

Reduction: For a shorter lesson, have the learners do the field trip in their own time.

Extension: For a longer lesson, Before the field trip:

- Visit the guide sheets and run through them with the learners.
- Ask for any other tips from the learners themselves.
- If learners completed module 1 they can revisit their mood boards and write a list of their desired fabrics, colours, shapes.

MEDIA BOX: (online video links, extra resources, case studies etc)

Your Guide To Charity Shopping! 10 Years Of Tips & Tricks [27:24min]

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gu69tEIsftg&ab_channel=NinkComPoop

How to Buy Fabric Terminology & Shopping Tips [11:54 mins]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ruRhkpys83o>

What is Sustainable Fabric + 5 Fabrics you should know about [9:06]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tE5fGj9fWWo>

Learning About Fabrics 1: The Who, What, and How [4:15 min] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-B4tfduOQ7w>

Local Trip / Expertise / Additional Work and Assessments

Have learners assess their clothing at home using the Fabric Identification guidelines or bring in some garments from home and circulate to identify the fabrics. If accessible, learners could also visit a fabric shop and explore the different fabrics using the guidelines.

Continue the glossary, giving each learner one or two words/ phrases to research and define in one sentence:

- Fabric identification.
- Pre-loved and Pre-loved shopping skills
- Purchasing with potential.



Natural fibres are made from either plant material- cellulose such as cotton, linen, hemp, or animal fur -protein such as wool, alpaca, silk, mohair.

Synthetic fibres are made from plastic - such as polyester, acrylic. Semi synthetic fibres are made from processed cellulose with chemicals- such as viscose or rayon. It is with experience and trial and error that we get better at identifying fabrics. Keep trying! Use the following guidelines to assist you in identifying each garments' fabric composition.

1. Look at the label.
2. Is the garment made from a mix of synthetic and natural fibers?
3. If there is no label present:
4. Feel the fabric.
5. Look at the type of garment that you holding.
6. Is the fabric thin or thick?
7. Does it feel damp or cool?

NATURAL FIBRE IDENTIFICATION:

- Cotton and most natural fibres e.g. silk or linen will crease when you crumple them in your hand.
- Scrunch up the fabric in your hand, roll it into a tight ball and hold it for 15 seconds.
- When you let it go it will stay crumpled if it is a natural fibre.

BREATHABILITY:

- If you are still unsure about what fabric you are holding, once again, hold the fabric tightly for about 1 and a half mins.
- Natural fibres will not feel damp. They will feel warm in your hand, like an extension of the heat your body produces. The fabric permeates the fibres and disperses any heat or moisture.
- This shows that the breathability is high and usually indicates a natural fibre.
- If you are still unsure about what fabric you are holding, once again, ball the fabric up and hold the fabric tightly for about 1 and a half mins.
- Synthetic fibres will feel damp. They will feel cold in your hand.
- The fabric does not absorb any heat from your body and therefore the moisture produced by the heat bounce back into the hand.
- Your hand will feel clammy and even slightly sticky. This shows that the breathability is low and usually indicates a synthetic fibre.

SYNTHETIC FIBRE IDENTIFICATION:

- Synthetic fibres like polyester and acrylic also crease when you crumple them in your hand but will not hold the creases.
- Scrunch up the fabric in your hand, roll it into a tight ball and hold it for 15 seconds. When you let it go the creases will fall out if it is a synthetic fibre.
- Semi-synthetic fibres e.g. rayon or viscose often feel silky like real silk and more difficult to identify.
- Again, scrunch up the fabric in your hand, roll it into a tight ball and hold it for 15 seconds.



GENERAL GUIDELINES:

- When you let it go the creases will usually fall out but not as much as a synthetic fiber and they will be less creased than a natural fibre.
- Try to go to charity shops during the week when there are less people shopping.
- Go as early in the day as you can to maximize the possibility of finding something extra special
- Revisit charity shops regularly
- Try to find well-made garments constructed from natural fibers. If you see and like synthetic garment consider how much you want it and whether you are prepared to keep it for a long time.
- Look for garments that sit well and have a good shape- avoid garments that bunch up or are seem to be worn around elbows, knees, crotch, armpits, collar areas.
- Find out from the staff what days they restock the rails.
- Always try things on if you can. It is often not permitted to return items from charity shops. This also gives you the opportunity to do a fabric identifying test when there is no care label.
- Remember you will be working on customizing whatever garment you buy so purchase with this creative lens of possibility!

SENSORY ACTIVATION:

When you enter a charity shop try to engage all of your senses as tools to help you find something.

- FEELING for different materials:
- LOOKING for colours that grab your eye:
- LISTEN to what the staff are saying about new stock.
- SMELLING for freshly washed garments

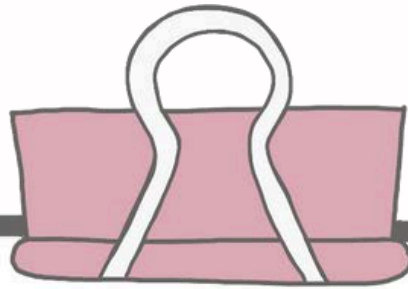
OTHER TIPS:

- If a garment smells freshly washed, you can usually tell if a stain is permanent or will wash out.
- If there are stains or holes, look at the positioning of them and try to visualize how you might be able to cover the stain or fill the hole.
- Check armpits for yellowing.
- Check neck line for staining/yellowing.
- Check the lining for rips and stains
- Check to make sure that there is no balling on jumpers.
- Look for loose buttons.
- Check to make sure that all the buttons are present. If not, think about how a new/ contrasting button could look on the garment with the existing buttons.
- Check for strained seams- this happens when a garment is not well made or when it has been over-worn.
- If the garment is large and has seam weakness – you can always take it in with simple running stitch along the seams.



- Always look at all of the rails so you don't miss anything.
- Check to see if the clothing is organized by colour or size or gender.
- Sometimes women's and men's clothes are put in the wrong area.
- Look in the bargain section for items that might be reduced.
- Look at the potential in the garments for customization.
- Look for things that might look different with a small amount of added sewing- for example, taking up the hem, filling a hole, taking the side seams in, cutting off the collar, patching etc.
- Look for t-shirts that can be modified through cutting - e.g. an oversized t-shirt can become a versatile top when cut and tied.
- Over-washed garments can lose their stretch. Steer clear of garments which are over-washed (unless that is what you are looking for specifically).

Use this space to make notes about what you maybe looking for at the charity shop or key points you want to remember as you select your garment.



A large, empty rectangular box with a thick black border, intended for students to write their notes.