A life-cycle assessment looks at every stage of a product’s life and assesses the impact it has on the environment. In this activity you will carry out a life-cycle assessment for a cotton garment before considering what you can do to minimise the environmental impact of your clothing choices.

1. a. On a copy of the article, highlight in different colours the paragraphs that relate to each of the following stages in the life cycle of a cotton garment.
   - Obtaining the raw material
   - Garment production
   - Transport
   - Retail process
   - Product use
   - Disposal

b. Complete the table below by making brief notes on the environmental impact of each of the different stages.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage of production</th>
<th>Sub-stage</th>
<th>Environmental impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Obtaining the raw materials</td>
<td>Growth of the cotton</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garment production</td>
<td>Ginning, spinning, knitting or weaving</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scouring, bleaching, colouration and addition of functional finishes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cutting and sewing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>Container shipping</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail process</td>
<td>Selling in retail stores and online</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Product use</td>
<td>Washing and drying</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

c. Based on your notes, allocate each sub stage as having either a **high**, **medium** or **low** impact on the environment.

2. Describe and explain three different ways in which you can reduce the environmental impact of your clothing.

   **Method 1**
   
   **Explanation**
   
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

   **Method 2**
   
   **Explanation**
   
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

   **Method 3**
   
   **Explanation**
   
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

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