

Fixing fashion

Education in Chemistry

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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.

Stage of production	Sub-stage	Environmental impact
Obtaining the raw materials	Growth of the cotton	
Garment production	Ginning, spinning, knitting or weaving	
	Scouring, bleaching, colouration and addition of functional finishes	
	Cutting and sewing	

Transport	Container shipping	
Retail process	Selling in retail stores and online	
Product use	Washing and drying	

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 _____
