



## Period products: life-cycle assessment

### ***Education in Chemistry***

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<https://rsc.li/3sYKC8T>

**A life-cycle assessment (LCA) 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 three different period products before considering which product you would recommend based on its environmental impact.**

As a group, complete a life-cycle assessment for each product using the information sheets and the table provided\*. Under each heading, give a brief description of the life-cycle stage. You will also need to give a score out of 5 for each stage, with 1 having the least impact and 5 most impact on the environment. In your descriptions make sure to include any points that helped you reach your score. Add up the overall score for each product.

As a group discuss:

1. Which product would your group recommend and why?
2. Why might it be difficult to come up with an overall judgement?

Challenge: How might we make a stage of the life cycle for one of the products more sustainable?

*\*The second page of the document may be printed on A3 paper to accommodate working in a group of 4 students.*

Product	Life-cycle stage				Overall score (out of 20)
	Obtaining and processing raw materials	Manufacturing and packaging	Using the product	Disposal of the product	
Tampon	Score: /5	Score: /5	Score: /5	Score: /5	
Sanitary pad	Score: /5	Score: /5	Score: /5	Score: /5	
Menstrual cup	Score: /5	Score: /5	Score: /5	Score: /5	