

Where do our clothes come from?



1. As pupils enter

Have the **web page open**. Play your chosen music and display the focus image of **a family shopping** for clothes.

2. Introduction

'Today we're going to be thinking about something that we all need and we all use - our clothes. In a moment we're going to watch a short video and we'll find out about what clothes are made from and how they are made. And as you watch, think about the clothes you like to wear - when you're here in school and the clothes you like to wear when you're at home - and think too about where they might come from.'

3. Play the video

The duration is 4' 05". Final words: '...men and women in Mick's busy factory.'

4 & 5. Time to talk

Lead a discussion about the video by asking:

1. 'Can anyone remember how much money we spend on clothes in the UK?' (The figures given are £44 billion and £8 billion on children's clothes, but you are looking for an awareness of the vast amount that is spent).
 2. 'Can anyone remember what types of materials our clothes are made from?' (Natural materials and synthetic - 'man-made' - materials). Follow-up with: 'Can you remember the two most common types of fabrics mentioned in the video?' (Cotton and polyester).
 3. 'What clothes mentioned in the video were made from polyester?' (Tracksuits and swimming costumes).
 4. 'The video showed factories where clothes are made. Can anyone remember which countries were mentioned?' (You are looking for an awareness of China and Bangladesh but also the UK).
 5. 'How did the young people in the video find making the clothes and using the sewing machines?' (An awareness that they found it difficult).
- Continue with: 'Turn to your neighbour and ask them what their favourite item of clothing is - where it came from and why they like it.' Allow time and then share some examples. Then link to the song if you will be singing.

6. Opportunity to sing

If your assembly is to include a song this would be a good time to sing. You could sing **Together** or **While we live we learn** from *All about our school*.

Play video



7. Opportunity to reflect

Focus your reflection on thinking about the clothes we have and the hard work that goes into making them:

**'Think about the clothes you like to wear...
And the hard work that goes into making them...
Do you always look after your clothes as well as you could..?
Why is it right to look after the things that are important to us..?
How can you make sure that you take care of something important today..?'**

8. Opportunity for prayer

Begin with your usual form of address ('Dear God', 'Lord Jesus', 'Let us pray...' etc) and:

**'We thank you for all that we have and the chance to show our appreciation to the men and women from all around the world who work hard to make our clothes.
Help us to take care of what we have and be grateful.
Let us think of those who are less fortunate than us. Amen.'**