

Video summary	Before watching	While watching
<p>Chioma is in Johannesburg, South Africa. This video explores why so much textile waste ends up in African cities, such as Johannesburg, and what the impact of it is.</p> <p>Fast fashion has caused huge problems for cities, not only across Africa but also Asia and South America too.</p> <p>Chioma explores the concept of 'waste colonialism' and what can be done to counter this huge environmental issue.</p> <p>Alongside interviewing local entrepreneur Sicelo Mabuza, Chioma investigates how the fashion industry could become sustainable through the use of new synthetic fibres and innovative new weaving techniques.</p>	<p>Discuss with students what they think 'fast fashion' is. Can they give examples of companies associated with fast fashion and the issues being caused by the fast fashion industry? You could also discuss with students whether they feel there is a place for fast fashion.</p> <p>Students could create a spider diagram about their understanding of fast fashion. This could be added to while they watch the video.</p> <p>Can students think of any solutions to fast fashion? Students may make a link to 'influencers' who promote sustainable fashion habits, such as buying second hand or recycling clothing.</p> <p>Introduce key terms such as:</p> <p>Textile dump: a place where textile waste such as clothing, bedding and fabric scraps are stored. This is sometimes in areas not designed to hold this waste.</p> <p>'Waste colonialism': the practice of exporting waste from wealthier countries to less wealth countries, highlighting a power imbalance between the countries that produce the waste and those that receive it.</p> <p>Fast fashion: inexpensive and mass-produced clothing created in response to the latest fashion trends.</p> <p>Sustainable: the practice of using natural resources responsibly so they can support the population of today and future generations.</p> <p>Circular economy: an economic system based on the reuse and regeneration of materials products to be more sustainable.</p>	<p>You may wish to stop at relevant points during this short film to pose questions and check understanding, or wait until the end. Useful questions might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is a 'textile dump'? • What environmental issues might this cause? • Why does the waste end up in many African cities? • What is fast fashion? • What are the impacts of fast fashion? • Why do we throw away so much clothing each year? • What is a circular economy? • How can the fashion industry become more sustainable?

After watching

Discuss what is meant by the use of textiles. This can include the buying of textiles - not just clothing - but bedding, towels and blankets too. The use of textiles also includes the clothing that has been thrown away due to its use - for example, a pair of trousers with holes in or something that has been outgrown such as children's clothing. What do the students think should be done with used textiles?

Discuss the solutions to fast fashion and textile waste that were covered in the video - such as upcycling, using specially created synthetic fibres and entrepreneurial upcycling. Students could choose one of those methods to research. Examples of companies that would be useful to research include Kleiderly, Rebirth (A South African clothing company) and Infiniti Fiber. Students could create a presentation on their chosen method to share with others. What are the advantages and disadvantages to those methods? Can they be achieved on a large scale like in the fast fashion industry?

Curriculum notes	Where next?	Links
<p>This clip will be relevant for teaching Geography at KS3 in England and Northern Ireland, 3rd/4th Level in Scotland and Progression Step 4 in Wales.</p> <p>In the English National Curriculum this video can be used to help teach the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Using maps of the world to focus on Africa, focusing on the environmental regions, hot deserts, key physical features, countries and major cities.</i> <i>Understand geographical similarities, differences and links between places through the study of human and physical geography of a region within Africa.</i> <i>Human geography related to economic activity and the use of natural resources.</i> 	<p>The book <i>Fashionopolis</i> by Dana Thomas is a great place for further research. The author explores a range of issues associated with the fast fashion industry and what the solutions might be. Students could read sections of this text to help them understand the impacts of the fashion industry.</p> <p>One of the world's largest second hand clothing markets is at Kantamanto in Accra, Ghana. Items from fashion brands across the world can be found on stalls there and much of it has come from charity shops in countries such as the UK.</p> <p>Many people rely on the sales of the clothing; however the environmental impact of the clothing as well as the social impacts - such as the decline of traditional clothing industries - are huge. A lot of textile waste flows into the Odaw River and the Korle Lagoon and this causes major environmental damage. The Korle Lagoon is one of the most polluted waterways on Earth.</p> <p>Students could research the wider impacts of this waste - for example, what impact does it have on food webs as the clothing breaks down and is swallowed by wildlife?</p>	<p>Fast fashion: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zqx6p4j</p> <p>Sustainability: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z8vpcxs</p> <p>How can we live more sustainably? https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zwjdkty</p>