IO2 – Climate Change Challenge WebQuests

Taking the Upcycling Challenge

SOLUTION NOT POLLUTION

Building Problem-solving Skills of Youth to Address Environmental and Climate Change Issues

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

IO2 – Climate Change Challenge WebQuests
WebQuest Theme: Taking the Upcycling Challenge

TIME ALLOCATED:	1 week (varies)
TITLE OF THE WEBQUEST:	Create a Podcast Entitled "Upcycle your Style".

INTRODUCTION

We all like to be trendy, but did you know that as green fashion and upcycling is gaining more and more space, the creation of new clothing from old textiles is the new trend in many European countries, including Germany?

And there is a good reason for that! Research by Eurostat has found that a standard German produces 633kg of waste a year: that's almost 200kg higher than the EU-wide average. Meanwhile, another survey found that Germans have 5.2 billion pieces of clothing stashed away in their wardrobes - 40 percent of which is never worn and simply thrown away!

In this WebQuest, you will understand the clear difference between recycling and upcycling, what slow fashion is, why wasting should not ever be an option, and why exploring innovative upcycling solutions plays a paramount role in environmental protection.

TASK

Nowadays, repeating outfits is the new chic, considering that fashion is cyclical and if you hang on to old clothes, they eventually become 'retro'. That is a mindset you support as a highly influential eco-friendly blogger, who decides to start with your team-mates a new section in your blog, that will provide podcasts to inform your followers about "hot" issues concerning the environment. As a team you make a poll asking your subscribers what topic your first podcast should cover. The vast majority of them want you to highlight the best practices of clothes' upcycling.

Considering their choice, you decide along with your team of 4, to use your smartphones to record a podcast. You will install free mobile software in your devices in order to record,

edit and present to your fans a tailor-made podcast with the title "Upcycle your Style". In this podcast you will give few examples and smart advices underlining the essence of upcycling and the importance of looking to your wardrobe from a different angle.

This topic of upcycling really motivates your team to inspire your fans to act in an environmentally friendly way! So, make sure you give them nothing but the best! Let's start working!

PROCESS

Step 1: What do we know about upcycling?

Recycling has changed from throwing something away, to turning it into something we can use again, either in its current form or as something else. Upcycling on the other hand is taking something we might recycle and transforming it into something more valuable. In times when we create too much waste, upcycling is becoming a fun way to reduce the amount of garbage we generate and reduce our environmental footprint.

Moreover, upcycling is more energy efficient because materials are not broken down or degraded. Instead, they are reimagined and repurposed, by adding value and quality while extending their life.

Upcycling, Recycling, Downcycling, Slow Fashion – there are so many terms that we sometimes really get lost. Figure out how all these terms are defined so as to be able to inform your fans that are going to listen to your podcast about them, by visiting the following websites. Don't forget to keep notes of what new you learn!

- What is the difference between recycling and upcycling? https://www.forgerecycling.co.uk/blog/what-is-the-difference-between-recycling-and-upcycling/
- Upcycling vs. Recycling: https://recyclenation.com/2017/02/upcycling-vs-recycling/
- Design: Recycling vs Upcycling. What's the difference? https://www.inexhibit.com/case-studies/design-recycling-vs-upcycling-whats-the-difference/

- The Difference Between Upcycling & Downcycling: https://www.ecofox.ie/blog/the-difference-between-upcycling-downcycling/
- Fashion Upcycling _ An Avant-Garde View: Https://Barbaraigongini.Com/Universe/Blog/Fashion-Upcycling/
- Slow Fashion-Trend: Upcycling: https://green-lifestyle-magazin.de/slow-fashion-trend-upcycling/

Take into consideration that being sustainable is not about stopping how many clothes you buy but learning how to buy products of high quality, ethical and Fairtrade. By buying clothes made with pre-existing materials we can contribute to minimising our environmental footprint as we can save an enormous amount of water, slow down unnecessary virgin textile production and drastically reduce landfill mass with its associated emissions burden.
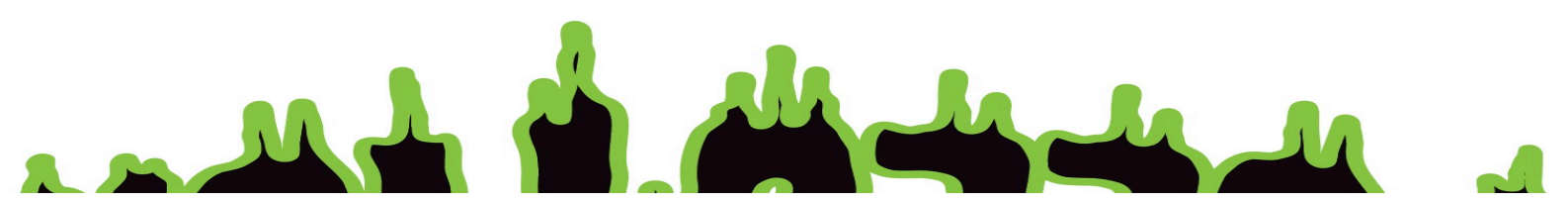
Now that you have learned the basics regarding clothes' upcycling, you can proceed to step 2 of the process!

Step 2: Let's talk about ethics and fairness!

Smart and environmentally friendly shopping and consumption of clothing has three phases. The first phase begins when one cloth item is purchased. The second phase starts when it is sold online or donated to a charity. Keep in mind that one man's trash is another man's treasure! And what happens when a clothing item is in a condition that it can no longer be re-purchased? This is when the third phase starts. The upcycling phase.

You've been introduced to the upcycling process and you start wondering, as a team, to what extent upcycling is fair, environmentally friendly and ethically correct. Start a conversation with your team-mates and write down important questions regarding these two important topics that your audience could have and would like to be answered. Some examples of these questions are:

1. How does the global fashion industry work?
2. What conditions exist in the workplace in clothes' production plants?
3. What is happening to the clothes' production value chain that could harm the earth's ecosystems?
4. How does upcycling impact the environment, clothes' production, commercialisation and promotion?

Add any other question that you think is essential and try to respond to them by conducting some research:

- Sustainable, Ethical Practices: The Beating Heart Of Fashion: https://www.hindustantimes.com/art-and-culture/sustainable-ethical-practices-the-beating-heart-of-fashion/story-E3rFPz6DqnhIq0wc4N4EaK.html
- What is Upcycling? A Simple Definition: https://youmatter.world/en/definition/upcycling/
- Upcycling Is the Coolest Part Of The Ethical Fashion Movement: https://finance.yahoo.com/news/upcycling-coolest-part-ethical-fashion-063000165.html
- Stoppt den Grünen Knopf – Warum das staatliche Siegel eine Einladung zum Greenwashing ist: www.kirstenbrodde.de

Write down your answers and continue with step 3!

Step 3: Find out about upcycling hacks and get inspired!

It's about time to explore existing upcycling hacks in the fashion industry, as it's essential to provide information about existing initiatives in the upcycling clothes' era in your "Upcycle your Style" podcast.

As you have already understood, the term upcycling clothing stands for more than just environmentally friendly, sustainable fashion. Find out more about upcycled clothing brands that make extraordinary fashion:

- Recycled and Upcycled Clothing Brands To Know in 2020: https://compareethics.com/9-recycled-and-upcycled-clothing-brands-you-shouldnt-pass-in-2018/
- Upcycling-Kleidung: diese 5 Labels machen Mode aus Textilabfällen: https://utopia.de/ratgeber/upcycling-kleidung-aluc-globe-hope-reet-aus/

What materials are they using while producing their clothes? What does it mean to be creative when you upcycle clothing items? Do you think that these clothes are trendy and attractive to buyers?

Here is another interesting story of a designer from Augsburg and Kassel in Germany, who started using old and unused materials for her outstanding fashion pieces.

- Upcycling - Aus Alt mach Neu | defacto: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tR0afX9T26k

If it is not enough for you and your team to get inspired, jump straight into the processing part. Let's have a look at some creative bloggers who collect unusual ideas and give step-by-step instructions.

And don't forget! You don't have always to buy from others! You can upcycle your old clothes by yourself! Watch these DIY videos and learn how to produce your homemade fashion in order to share these hints and tips with your audience:

- Cute Easy Ways To Upcycle Your Clothes! | DIY + Thrift Flip: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lw__A_wdH9I
- The Upcycle Project: Tips: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DqOnS55AIHQ
- Fashion Hacks And Brilliant Clothing Tips || Cool Girly Hacks And DIY Clothing Ideas: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QdUtSw39EvI

Having your notes in your hands, your answers to the questions you discussed as a team and all the appropriate information for supporting the idea of incorporating upcycled fashion in our daily shopping habits for combating climate change and other environmental challenges, proceed to the next step and start creating your podcast!

Step 4: How to make a great podcast!

Podcasts seem to be a growing trend that is here to stay. These days the average person has at least heard of podcasting and understands the concept. And almost 40% of people listen to podcasts every month! But there is still a lot of confusion and misconceptions about the meaning of podcasting.

In a little more detail, a podcast is a series of spoken words, audio episodes, all focused on a particular topic or theme. You can subscribe to the show with an app on your phone and listen to episodes whenever you like on your headphones, in the car or through speakers.

As you are a beginner to this podcasting era, here are some highly informative sources to dig up for how to get going in this new content direction:

- What is a Podcast? An Explanation in Plain English: https://www.thepodcasthost.com/listening/what-is-a-podcast/
- How to Start a Podcast: Every Single Step for 2021: https://www.thepodcasthost.com/planning/how-to-start-a-podcast/
- Podcasting for Beginners: The Complete Guide to Getting Started With Podcasts: https://buffer.com/library/podcasting-for-beginners/
- How To Start A Podcast: A Complete Step-By-Step Tutorial: https://www.podcastinsights.com/start-a-podcast/
- 🎙️📱 How to Start a Podcast on Your Phone | Anchor Podcast Tutorial (2020): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LnQiCVW7YCQ

Create a plan that will help you implement this short-term project based on the guidelines provided in the aforementioned web sources and keep in mind that to make the best possible show, a good crew goes a long way. So, establish your podcast production team and assign roles to each other. Check what are the roles needed and based on your skills decide who is going to undertake which task:

- Who Does What on a Podcast Team: https://podcasters.spotify.com/blog/who-does-what-on-a-podcast-team

Step 5: Start podcasting!

Based on the plan you have developed and the roles assigned, start developing your podcast called "Upcycle your Style"!

The first step in this creative process is to reach leaders in the industry of upcycled fashion and bring them on your show. Contact them via email, via texting apps, via social media and ask them to enrich your audio content with their insights and their fresh and innovative ideas on the upcycling topic. During this process don't be shy and communicate the purpose of your project clearly and with passion!

The challenge is big! Hosting a podcast interview is a lot harder than it sounds. It's not a simple as having a friendly chat in front of a pair of microphones. If you don't prepare, you

could end up with a boring interview that fails to entertain your listeners and has bad reviews.

Follow these 11 ways to be exceptionally prepared for your podcast Interview:

- 11 Ways to Be Exceptionally Prepared For A Podcast Interview: https://www.dontpanicmgmt.com/prepare-for-podcast-interview/

Prepare your script where you have to include what you have learned while implementing step 1 to 3 of this process. Include all the important information you gathered through your research on the upcycling topic and decide when the most appropriate moment is to introduce your audience to the upcycled fashion leader you managed to interview. The best podcast episodes may sound like casual, free-flowing conversations, but that's due to the hours of preparation and planning the hosts do before hitting the record button. Learn how to develop your podcast script by visiting the following website:

- How to Write A Podcast Script: https://castos.com/podcast-script/

After having your raw material ready, decide which software you are going to use to edit your audio files. But what are the top 6 best free podcast software tools that you could use? Take a look and pick up one and proceed with finalising your podcast named "Upcycle your Style!"

- 6 Best Free Podcast Editing Software Tools in 2019: https://learn.g2.com/best-free-podcast-editing-software-tools-2019

To have the impact you want and provide real value to your followers get your newly produced podcast on your favourite social media platform!

EVALUATION

As a self- assessment exercise for this WebQuest, please answer the following questions and share your thoughts and insights with your teammate:

- What were some of the most interesting discoveries my teammates and I made while working on this project? About the problem? About myself? About others?

- What were some of my most challenging moments and how did I manage to overcome them?
- What were some of my most powerful learning moments and why?
- What skills did I acquire through this activity?
- How well did I and my team communicate overall?
- Were my milestones and goals mostly met, and how much did I deviate from them if any?
- What would I do differently if I were to approach the same problem again?

CONCLUSION

Congratulation! You have successfully managed to complete the "Taking the Upcycling Challenge" WebQuest! You have prepared an informative podcast entitled "Upcycle your Style!" and you shared it with your followers so as to raise awareness about the pressing issue of waste pollution caused by the fashion industry and to provide solutions by introducing them to the upcycled fashion movement.

Everyday tonnes of clothing items end up in the garbage bin producing a huge environmental footprint. Therefore, we have to make ourselves aware of the detrimental cost of our consumer habits and consider environmental protection as our upmost priority. Continue this journey, by passionately serving this cause and do your best to cultivate the seeds you sow so as our planet earth to survive!

"Creativity is making marvellous out of discarded"
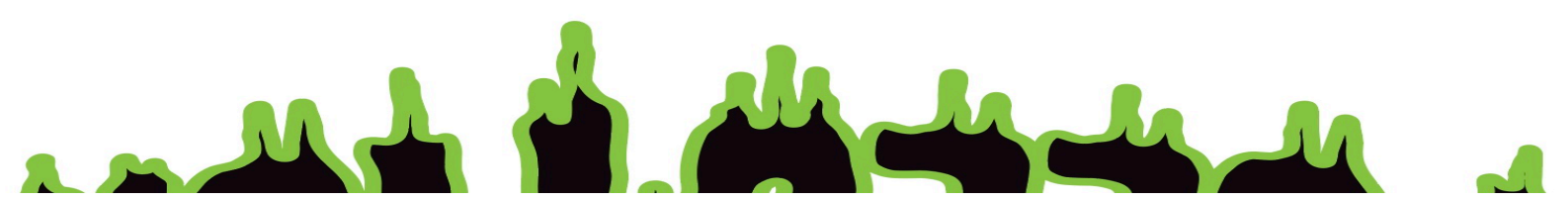*-Kye Baird*

Source: pikist.com

TUTOR SECTION

On completion of this WebQuest, young people will have achieved the following learning outcomes:

Knowledge	Skills	Attitudes
- Basic knowledge of shopping ethically. - Basic knowledge of upcycling, downcycling. - Basic knowledge about brands and fashion ideas that combine eco-friendly and ethically conscious consumption. - Factual knowledge about the impact of fashion industry on labour conditions and climate change.	- Define the meaning of the term "Upcycling". - Define the term "Green Fashion" and "Slow Fashion". - Defining ethics and fairness in fashion industry. - Discuss the environmental and ethical aspects of keeping up with the fashion trends. - Design and create a podcast.	- Willingness to be more creative and adventurous when planning and producing podcast content. - Openness to new trends in sustainable fashion. - Awareness of the environmental and ethical aspects of fashion industry. - Willingness to share and promote sustainable way of life with others, by

• Theoretical knowledge of sustainability and sustainable fashion production and consumption. • Factual knowledge about green sustainable fashion trends, platforms, movements, campaigns. • Basic knowledge about how to develop a podcast.	• Reflect on clothes consumption habits. • Use digital tools for finding out about green, slow fashion initiatives and campaigns in your community. • Apply ideation methods. • Apply communication techniques. • Improve your leadership skills and teamwork.	following aspirations to combat climate change causes. • Openness to combine, mix, and experiment with diverse styles. • Feeling of social responsibility and belonging by contributing to the greater global cause. • Self-empowerment and confidence about social and environmental benefits of sustainable shopping. • Eagerness to be creative and innovative by using digital means/tools to stick to sustainable way of life.

Questions that a youth worker or teacher might use in a whole class discussion to debrief this WebQuest:

- How would you rate the over-all experience? Did you enjoy learning through completing a WebQuest challenge?
- How did you find working in a group to complete a challenge?
- Who was the leader in your group? What role did you take on?
- Did you enjoy the scenario? Would you have preferred to use this time to work on another topic? Why?
- Where you happy with the plan you developed for the village renewal project?

- Where you happy with the presentation you and your team delivered?
- What is the one most important thing that have you learned through this challenge?
- Do you feel like you have gained new skills? If so, what are they?
- Do you feel like you could bring this idea forward and start a Junior Tidy Towns Committee in your area? Why or why not?

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f!p Future In Perspective

JUGEND- & KULTURPROJEKT E.V.

Solution SOLIDARITE & INCLUSION

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