

TEACHABLE BOOKS

Global Issues: Sustainability

By Peggy Lunn

GRADE LEVEL: Middle (7-10)

THEME: Global Issues

SUB-THEMES: Global
Sustainability

LEARNING FOCUS

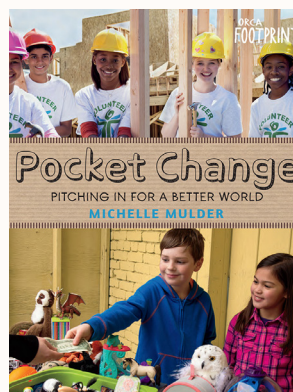
Using non-fiction texts students will:

- Connect a consumer product with its production path
- Recognize the impact of consumerism on the global village
- Identify the role they play in sustainability goals

FEATURED BOOKS



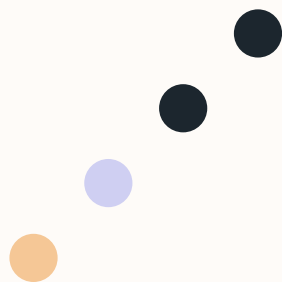
Eyes Wide Open: Going Behind the Environmental Headlines by Paul Fleischman (Penguin Random House, 2014)



Pocket Change: Pitching In for a Better World by Michelle Mulder (Orca Book Publishers, 2016)



Follow Your Stuff: Who Makes It, Where Does It Come From, How Does It Get to You? by Kevin Sylvester and Michael Hlinka (Annick Press, 2019)



LEARNING EXPERIENCE

MINDS ON PROVOCATION

Ask students to bring in a piece of their favourite clothing. When the class has assembled their clothing pieces, look at the tags. (Alternate Strategy: If you are concerned about students in the class who may be facing homelessness, food insecurity or other monetary concerns it might be best to create a slide deck with images of clothing and the associated tags, rather than potentially place a student in a position of harm due to the acknowledgement of their situation by their peers.) Have students consider the following questions: Where was the article of clothing made? Which company created it?

Generate a tally chart of the various countries where clothing was made using a tool of teacher choice (i.e. paper and markers, Google Sheet, etc.)

Discussion Question: How did that item get from where it was made to being in your possession, now?

Watch these videos from Curio.ca as a further provocation option:

- [Fighting back against fast fashion](#)
- [Clothing Waste: Fashion's dirty secret](#)
- [Reduce, Reuse, and Rethink](#) (video collection)



READ, PLAN, AND PRACTICE

Working in pairs, small groups or individually, students will:

- Select one of the five consumer items highlighted in the book “Follow Your Stuff,” read the section, and follow its journey from source to finished project.
- Information Literacy Extension: students can also incorporate using the references or additional resource suggestions in the book itself to learn how to locate and use non-fiction text features like appendices, references and other back material.
- Work with a set of guiding benchmarks to target their information retrieval, for example: place of resource extraction, place of manufacture, vendor/sales formats and venues.
- Create a paper or electronic map charting the various steps in the manufacturing, transportation and delivery of products using information provided in the book.
- Consider the impact of the production of these products on global sustainability and investigate possible alternatives: What if these products were produced in Canada? What changes would that bring about?
- Students may also choose to investigate the methods of production in the places of origin and consider the human rights impacted by the production of these products.

Digital tools: Google Earth

MAKE, TINKER, AND MODIFY

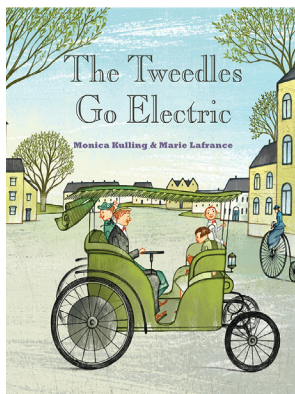
Students will use a presentation app or tool of their choice to demonstrate their item's journey (i.e. Google Maps: Transit and Food, Google Lit Trips, Explain Everything Whiteboard or others recommended by [Common Sense Media](#)).

REFLECT AND CONNECT

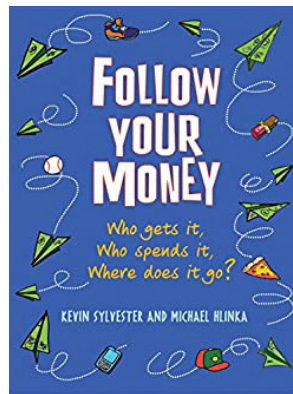
Alone or in their pairs or small groups, students share their respective items' journeys with their class using presentation software.

Students individually write a reflective response piece about what new information they have learned, what they are still curious about, and what changes they may apply to their own consumption/disposal behaviours.

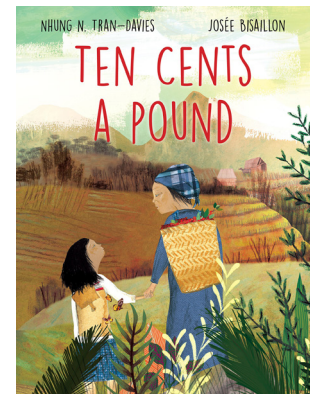
ADDITIONAL CANADIAN BOOKS AND BOOK LISTS TO SUPPORT THESE SUB-THEMES



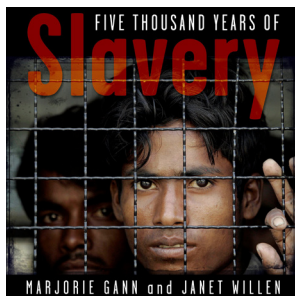
The Tweedles Go Electric by Monica Kulling, illustrated by Marie Lafrance (Groundwood Books, 2014)



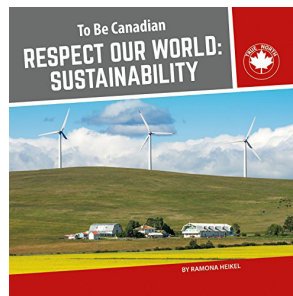
Follow Your Money: Who Gets It, Who Spends It, Where Does It Go? by Kevin Sylvester and Michael Hlinka (Annick Press, 2013)



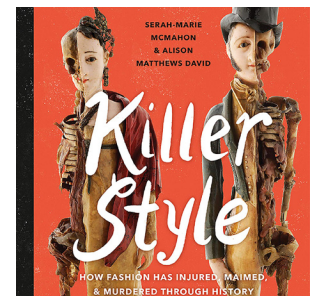
Ten Cents a Pound by Nhung N. Tran-Davies, illustrated by Josée Bisailon (Second Story Press, 2018)



Five Thousand Years of Slavery by Marjorie Gann and Janet Willen (Tundra Books 2011)



To Be Canadian: Respect Our World: Sustainability by Ramona Heikel (Beech Street Books, 2018)



Killer Style: How Fashion Has Injured, Maimed, and Murdered Throughout History by Serah-Marie McMahon and Alison Matthews David, illustrated by Gillian Wilson (Owlkids Books, 2019)

ADAPTATIONS FOR THIS LESSON

Junior (4-6) Approach: Using “Ten Cents a Pound” as a provocation, students could explore the far-reaching social impacts of international trade on families around the world.

Intermediate/Senior Inquiry: As Canadian consumers in a global community, we need to be aware of the impact of our purchasing choices. Young people are significant consumers and their demand for the newest fashion and electronics extends beyond their own homes and experiences and impacts people around the world. A deeper inquiry will help young consumers recognize the pathway from production to purchase, the origin and impact of manufactured goods on countries around the world and the sustainability, environmental and human impacts of consumerism. Students could also investigate/compare global sustainability goals and human rights in Canada against its major trading partners.

MORE RESOURCES

Along with the video resources mentioned in Minds On Provocation, teachers may want to showcase other fiction or non-fiction print resources for students at a variety of reading and comprehension levels, to further their thinking or understanding of the issue or places they are curious about, and to aid in the development of Reflect and Connect creations.

- [Frieda Makes a Difference: The Sustainable Development Goals and How You Too Can Change the World](#) (United Nations Publications, 2019)
- United Nations [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#)
- United Nations [Support Sustainable Development and Climate Action](#)
- [Canadian Resources to Support Inquiry Learning - 2021](#)