

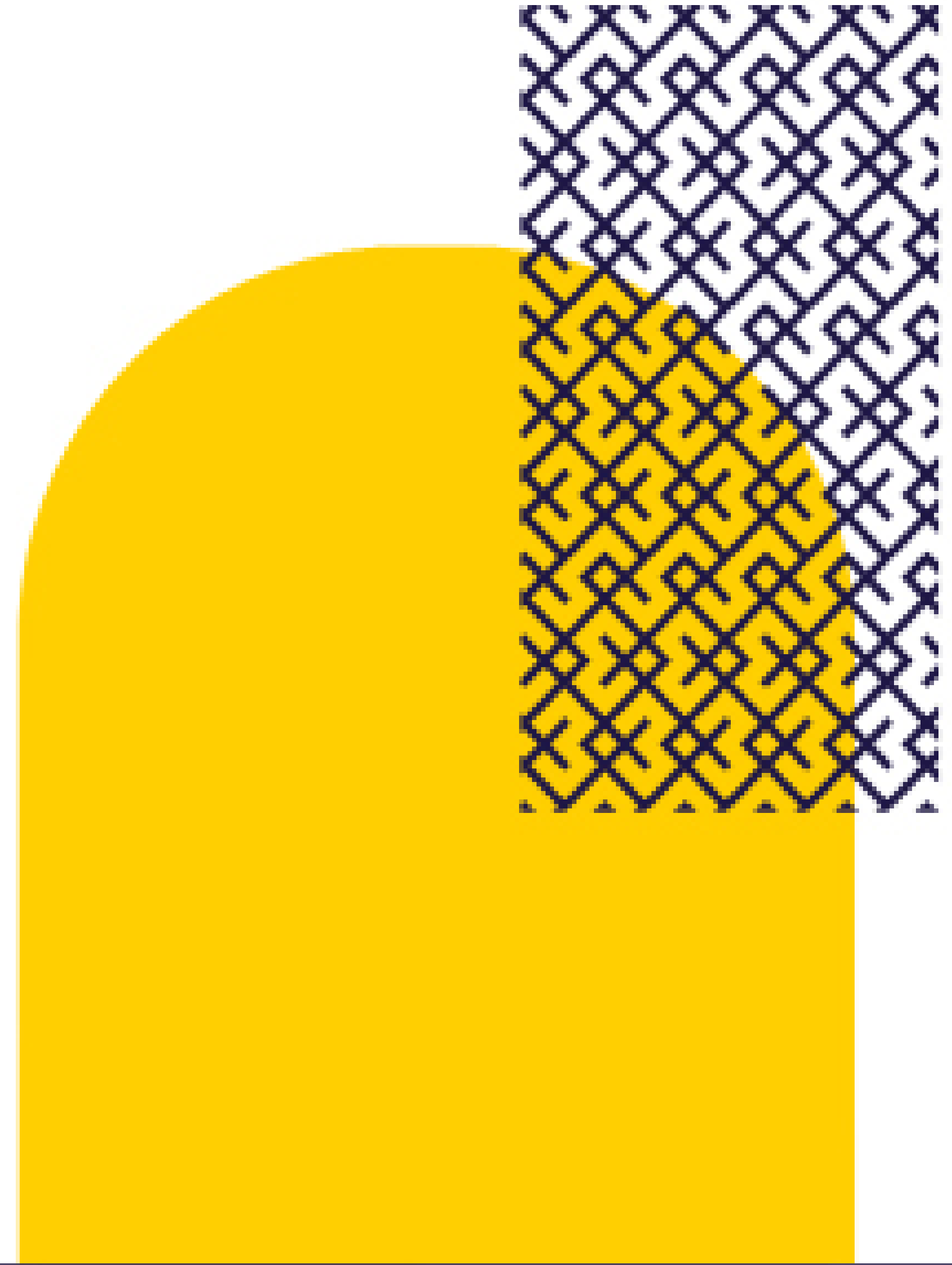
The Life Cycle of a Textile Workbook

**textile
museum**

OF CANADA



**TD Friends of the
Environment Foundation**



General Information

This program explores tools of inquiry for considering the sustainability of textiles. Students will learn about textile sustainability, understanding textile art, the lifecycle and impact of the fast fashion industry, and making conscious choices. Sustainability means sharing our resources, and leaving something behind for the next generation to use!

What Makes a Textile "Sustainable"?

Sustainability means sharing our resources, and leaving something behind for the next generation to use!

It is nearly impossible for production to cause no harm to the environment; sustainability is the pursuit of better textile industries around the world.

Ensuring that workers are safe, comfortable, and paid fairly in every stage of production, makes a textile sustainable. This includes farming, harvest, manufacturing, and chemical surface treatments such as dyeing and printing

What Makes a Textile "Sustainable"?

Safe & Fair Labour

Ethical Manufacturing

Ethical Harvest

Fast-Fashion Facts

1. North Americans send 9.5 million tonnes of clothing to landfill every year
...95% of which could be Reused or Recycled.
2. Over 1 billion pairs of jeans are produced worldwide in a year

Videos:

[True cost of Fast Fashion - The shady world of cheap clothing](#)

[Textile Mountain - The Hidden Burden of our Fashion Waste](#)

How to Avoid Buyer's Regret

What does the brand tell us?

Check their "About" page:

- Look for textile certifications

Check their social media pages:

- Do their ethics and values align with yours?
- Who is modeling their products?
- Do you feel proud to support them?

How to Avoid Buyer's Regret

What does the brand tell us?

Check the tags and packaging:

- What is the raw material? (plant/animal/plastic?)
- Was this material grown & harvested responsibly?
- Is it made of recycled materials?
- What is the country of origin?
- Did the item (or its materials) travel far to the store?
- Does textile production support the community, or cause harm?

Shopping Checklist

- I agree with the brand's ethics & practices
- The raw materials are sourced responsibly
- The raw materials are natural, recycled, or recyclable
- This was my most sustainable option
- (we can't always be perfect!)

Solutions

when you're done with clothing:

- Organize a clothing swap!
- Donate to a responsible place
- Upcycle into a new art project

if it is beyond repair:

- Fabric recycling
- Composting
- Down-cycle into stuffing

It's always best to shop local, shop small,
& help build your community!

... H&M doesn't know who you are,
but your local fashion boutiques and thrift stores will
love getting to know you & your personal style!

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