

Watch “The Story of Stuff”

VIEWING GUIDE

“The Story of Stuff” is a 20-minute video that details the lifecycle of our material goods. Since its release the video’s popularity skyrocketed, capturing over 30 million viewers across the world.

Watch the short film FREE at www.storyofstuff.org.

While viewing the film, write in responses to the following questions.

1. What are the five stages of the Materials Economy?
2. How much of the world’s natural resources were used in the last 30 years?
3. How many trees in the Amazon Rainforest are cut down each minute?
4. What are externalized costs? Give 2 examples.
5. How much material is still being used 6 months after it is purchased?

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Choose one question below and write out or discuss your response.

1. What options do you have to change the system to support sustainability and justice?
2. What are some of the steps that we in the U.S. can take to reduce the quantity and impact of our nation’s consumption?
3. In the U.S., most of our leisure time is used to watch TV and shop. When you think about the leisure time activities which bring you the most joy and rejuvenation, what are they?
4. In the film, it is said that “recycling doesn’t get to the core of the problem.” Why not?
5. What is “perceived obsolescence”? What items have you owned that you felt needed replacing, but were still performing well?