

## FAST FACTS



5+  
People



35-45  
Minutes



\$0



Low Risk

## The Story of Stuff

**Purpose of Activity:** To help students understand ethical consumption and to look at their own consumption habits.

### Objectives/Learning Outcomes:

By actively participating in this activity, participants will:

- Understand the consumer lifestyle we lead
- Recognize their own habits

### Materials Needed:

- There is a DVD copy stored with the Director for Sustainability Education. It can also be accessed online at [www.storyofstuff.com](http://www.storyofstuff.com)
  - Summary: The Story of Stuff is a 20-minute, fast-paced, fact-filled look at the underside of our production and consumption patterns. The Story of Stuff exposes the connections between a huge number of environmental and social issues, and calls us together to create a more sustainable and just world. It'll teach you something, it'll make you laugh, and it just may change the way you look at all the stuff in your life forever.

### Ground Rules:

- Be fully present and participate at your own comfort level – challenge by choice.
  - Follow up - What does it mean to be “fully present”?
  - Follow up - What does “challenge by choice” mean?
- Push yourself outside of your comfort zone – the most learning happens when we are a little bit uncomfortable.
- Listen respectfully, share air time, and encourage others to participate.
- It's ok for us all to be at different places with the things we discuss today.
- Show respect for one another's beliefs, values, and experiences.
- Respect and maintain privacy.

### Disclaimer:

- This film goes against a lot of what we are thought as participants in the consumer world. It could be hard for students to understand what they are doing in this model.

### Facilitation Guide:

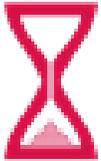
Just watch the movie and prepare a space for discussion afterward.

### Discussion Questions:

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- What did we just see? What stood out to you? What was missing? What did you observe about your reactions and the reactions of those around you?
- How did you feel as you watched the film? What feelings stick out as positive ones? Negative ones?
- What did you think of the film? Why do you think we watched it? How do you define sustainability (Perpetual and cooperative environmental, social, and economic systems)? What is the most important message that the film is intending to communicate?
- What can you do with this new information? What action will you take, if any? What messages will you now try to convey to others?