SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production

Liveworksheets student worksheet (Grades 8–9) • English lesson • 45 minutes

Student name: _____ **Class:** _____ **Date:** _____

READING

Read Text A and Text B. Underline new words. Then do Tasks A–C.

TEXT A – Thinking before you buy
Responsible consumption means using money and resources wisely so we don't create unnecessary waste or harm people and the environment. Almost everything we buy has a life cycle: materials are taken from nature, a product is manufactured, transported to shops, used, and finally either thrown away, reused, repaired, or recycled. Each stage needs energy and often water, so buying too much can increase pollution.

A responsible consumer pauses and asks: "Do I need this now?" "Could I borrow it?" "Can it be repaired?" "Is there a second-hand option?" Choosing durable items and avoiding extra packaging can reduce rubbish. Many people remember the 5Rs: refuse what you don't need, reduce what you use, reuse what you can, repair items, and recycle correctly.

TEXT B – Small actions that matter
Everyday habits can support SDG 12. Instead of single-use plastic, bring a reusable bottle, cup, or lunch box. Plan meals and take only what you will eat—this helps cut food waste. Swap or donate clothes, books, and school supplies. When something breaks, try to fix it before replacing it.

Responsible consumption is also about fairness and climate. Some labels (for example, fair trade) suggest workers may have better pay and conditions. Buying local products can mean fewer kilometres of transport. The total greenhouse gas emissions connected to a product—from production to transport—is called its carbon footprint. When we choose less, choose better, and use things longer, we help people and the planet.

A. Reading comprehension

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1. Choose the best main idea for each text.
2. True (T) or False (F). If false, rewrite the sentence to make it true.
3. Answer the questions in full sentences.

1) Main idea

Text	Choose ONE option (write A/B/C/D)
Text A	
Text B	

Text A options:

- A. Shopping is fun because products are cheap.
- B. Products have a life cycle and smart choices can reduce waste and pollution.
- C. Recycling is the only solution to environmental problems.
- D. Factories use no energy when they produce goods.

Text B options:

- A. Daily habits and fair choices (labels, local products) can reduce waste and carbon footprint.
- B. Students should never buy anything new.
- C. Transport has no effect on the environment.
- D. Plastic is always safe for nature.

2) True / False + correction

a) Responsible consumption means buying as many items as possible when there are discounts. T / F Correction: _____

b) Repairing or buying second-hand can help reduce waste. T / F Correction: _____

c) Single-use plastic is designed to be used repeatedly for a long time. T / F Correction: _____

d) A product's carbon footprint can include emissions from making and transporting it. T / F Correction: _____

e) Fair trade labels may show that workers' conditions are considered. T / F Correction: _____

3) Short answer

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a) Name two questions a responsible consumer might ask before buying.

Answer: _____

_____

b) Give two examples of reducing food waste at home or at school.

Answer: _____

_____

c) What does the word “packaging” mean? Give one example.

Answer: _____

_____

d) Explain “carbon footprint” in your own words.

Answer: _____

_____

e) Mention one way to support fairness in production.

Answer: _____

_____

B. Vocabulary practice

Target words: life cycle, packaging, durable, second-hand, single-use plastic, reduce, reuse, repair, recycle, fair trade, local, carbon footprint, food waste

1) Match the words to the definitions. Write the correct number next to each word.

- 1. Made to last a long time; strong
- 2. Used before; not new
- 3. The stages a product goes through from materials to disposal
- 4. Wrapping or containers that protect a product
- 5. Plastic made to be used once and thrown away
- 6. Fix something so you can use it again
- 7. Use again instead of throwing away
- 8. Use less / create less waste
- 9. Sort waste so materials can become new products

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- 10. A label suggesting better pay/conditions for workers
- 11. Produced near where you live (shorter transport)
- 12. Total emissions linked to a product (making + transport etc.)
- 13. Food that is thrown away instead of eaten

Word	Definition number
durable	___
second-hand	___
life cycle	___
packaging	___
single-use plastic	___
repair	___
reuse	___
reduce	___
recycle	___
fair trade	___
local	___
carbon footprint	___
food waste	___

2) Fill in the gaps using the word bank.

Word bank: reduce • reuse • recycle • repair • packaging • carbon footprint • fair trade • local • single-use plastic • life cycle

a) The _____ of a T-shirt includes cotton farming, production, transport, and what happens after you stop wearing it.

b) Please avoid extra _____ when you buy snacks for a trip.

c) Bringing your own bottle helps you avoid _____.

d) If your backpack strap breaks, try to _____ it instead of buying a new bag.

e) You can _____ glass and paper by putting them into the correct bins.

f) Buying _____ products may mean fewer transport kilometres.

g) The total emissions linked to a product are called its _____.

h) Some people choose _____ products to support better working conditions.

i) If you want less waste, _____ what you buy and use.

j) Use the same notebook cover again: _____ it next year.

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C. Mini task (real life)

Complete the table with ONE idea for your school.

Consumption problem	Responsible solution (use target words)
Too much food waste in the canteen	_____ _____
Lots of single-use plastic bottles	_____ _____
New supplies are bought too often	_____ _____

Exit ticket (1 minute)

Write one sentence:

Today I will try to _____ because _____.

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