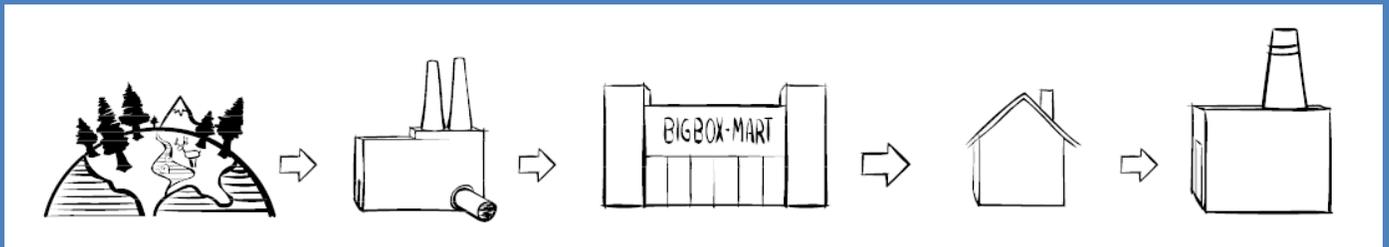


# WORKSHEET UNIT 1: THE TECHNOLOGICAL PROCESS

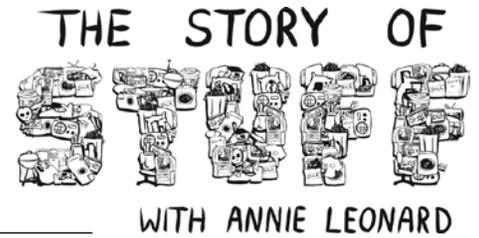
Name:



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# Facts from *The Story of Stuff*

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## Overview

With the help of the video “The Story of Stuff”, you should examine the planet’s ecological limits in the context of economic growth.

## Goals

- Provide an overview of the impact of consumption on vulnerable populations and the planet
- Orient students to the journey ahead and make them eager to do, learn, and act
- Support students in facing the hard truth about the state of our world
- Support students to face difficult truths about the impact of their own lifestyles and world.

## Resources:

Listen to the video linked below and answer to the following questions:

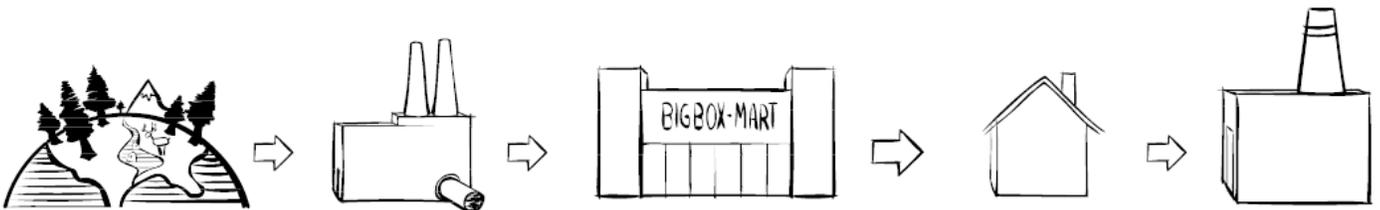
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LgZY78uwvxk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LgZY78uwvxk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TgAU6ZdK4hU&t=90s>



## Questions



1. What strikes you about how the limits are represented in the film?
2. Our economic system is based on constant economic growth.
3. What consequences does this have in terms of input and output?

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4. Where do you see connections between the input and output side?
  5. What alternatives to the existing system are mentioned?
  6. What could we do to change or reduce input and output?
  7. Do you have any suggestions for an economy that does not rely on constant growth?
  8. The film mentions “closed loop production” as a possible alternative. What might such a system look like?
  9. What is the advise the speaker gives to the audience about ...?
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- In the past three decades, **one-third** of the planet’s natural resources base have been consumed.<sup>1</sup>
  - In the United States, we have **less than 4%** of our original forests left.<sup>2</sup>
  - Forty percent of waterways in the US have become **undrinkable**.<sup>3</sup>
  - The U.S. has 5% of the world’s population but consumes 30% of the world’s resources<sup>4</sup> and creates 30% of the world’s waste.<sup>5</sup>
  - If everybody consumed at U.S. rates, **we would need 3 to 5 planets**.
  - There are over **100,000 synthetic chemicals** in commerce today.<sup>6</sup>
  - Only a handful of synthetic chemicals have even been tested for human health impacts and **NONE have been tested** for synergistic health impacts.<sup>7</sup>
  - In the U.S., industry admits to releasing over **4 billion pounds of toxic chemicals** a year.<sup>8</sup>
  - The average U.S. person now **consumes twice as much** as they did 50 years ago.<sup>9</sup>
  - We each see more advertisements in one year than a people 50 years ago saw in a **lifetime**.<sup>10</sup>
  - In the U.S. our **national happiness peaked** sometime in the 1950s.<sup>11</sup>
  - In the U.S., we spend **3–4 times as many hours shopping** as our

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counterparts in Europe do.<sup>12</sup>

- Average U.S. **house size has doubled** since the 1970s.<sup>13</sup>
- Each person in the United States makes **4 1/2 pounds of garbage** a day.<sup>14</sup> That is twice what we each made thirty years ago.<sup>15</sup>
- For every one garbage can of waste you put out on the curb, **70 garbage cans of waste** were made upstream to make the junk in that one garbage can you put out on the curb.<sup>16</sup>

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## **How to return this worksheet:**

Rename this word document adding your name to the end. When you have completed the exercise, send it to me by email.