

Real Cool Futures Design Technology Lesson Chunk

Subject area links: Design Technology

Age group: KS4

Timer: 15 minutes

Why do this:

Products that are designed now and in the future will need to be more environmentally friendly than products in the past. Your students are the people that will create these designs. The short film of Tom Kay explains what designers need to consider when thinking of a new product. Challenge students to think about this when they design a product of their own - this film could be shown at the start of a lesson where students will need to design a product.

Activity:

Log on to the Real Cool Futures website and show on the whiteboard. Click on the Design & Inspiration category. Scroll down and find Tom Kay [click to follow link], an ethical surf clothing company owner.

URL: <http://www.realcoolfutures.com/case-study.php/tom-kay-ethical-surf-clothing-company-owner>

- Students should be told to listen carefully to find out what things designers need to think about when designing an environmentally friendly product.
- Watch the video to find out what these are. They are mentioned quickly (between 39 seconds and 55 seconds) so students need to listen carefully. (The answers are – what it is made of, how it gets to the factory, the manufacturing process, life of the product, and what happens at the end of the product's life cycle.)
- Get feedback from the class about what these things are and display them on the board as a star diagram.
- Get students to begin to produce a mind map showing these factors in more detail. E.g. What is the product made of? Is the material recycled? Is it natural or man-made? Is it sustainably produced?
- Finally, challenge students to think about all these issues when designing a product of their own.

