



Introduction to the teaching material

In all aspects of life, the concept of fairness is ubiquitous and is present, whether it is in the rules of sports (fair play rules) or when purchasing fair trade products. The topic of fairness spans all consumer issues and is therefore an ideal introduction to other topics in consumer education.

The following teaching material is designed to support students in developing their consumer awareness with a special focus on fairness, while also improving their English language skills. It is intended for students in the 10th and 11th grade and can be used flexibly across subjects such as English, Geography and Economics, or in interdisciplinary settings.

Please be aware that the materials have been carefully translated and adapted to a language level that is appropriate, yet not overly challenging. While the texts are generally accessible, students may still encounter unfamiliar vocabulary or more abstract concepts – particularly in sections that address topics such as micro-plastics. For this reason, vocabulary lists are provided to support comprehension and language acquisition. The overall structure, tenses, and vocabulary are aligned with levels B1 and B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR), ensuring that the materials meet the language needs of students at this grade level.

Although the language level is appropriate for intermediate learners, some topics (such as norms, values, and morals) may require additional guidance or explanation. We therefore encourage you to actively support your students in navigating the content, helping them engage with the material effectively, and creating space for reflection and discussion, depending on the needs of your class.

This resource is available in both English and German, making it adaptable to different teaching environments and supporting learners with varying language backgrounds. This bilingual format allows for differentiated instruction, enabling you to use the materials with students who feel more comfortable in one language or benefit from comparing both versions for better understanding. Selected materials are also available in plain language (German), making them more accessible for learners who benefit from reduced linguistic complexity.

You are welcome to use the materials in whatever way best fits your teaching style and curriculum goals. Whether you are aiming to teach financial literacy, consumer rights, or explore topics such as fairness, values, and ethical decision-making, these resources provide an engaging and interactive way to cover important issues in an informative and accessible manner.

For more information and related resources, please visit: www.konsumentenfragen.at



Reference to subjects	Geography and economics, law, economics, history and social studies/political education, religious education/ethics, biology and environmental education, communication/project work/social learning, ecology, English
School level	Recommended for 10 th /11 th grade
Competencies see Grundsatzlerlass Wirtschafts- und Verbraucher:innenbildung BMBF, June 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The students demonstrate basic and essential competencies that help them navigate and participate in economic life. They apply age-appropriate social skills relevant to their everyday environment. • The students can reflect on the consequences of their consumption and economic behaviour and act responsibly, with political awareness and a sense of sustainability suited to their stage of development. • The students can reflect on their personal needs, financial means, and values
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying and discussing various concepts and perspectives on fairness • Integrating the concept of fairness into everyday life by recognizing and addressing fair and unfair situations • Exploring selected aspects of young people's lives to examine fairness in greater depth • Applying and reflecting on knowledge related to fairness in different contexts • Independently researching and preparing materials on fairness-related topics • Developing and defining fair rules for specific, real-life situations
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising awareness of fairness and its relevance in daily interactions • Demonstrating fairness towards the environment, using microplastics as a practical example • Critically reflecting on one's own consumption choices regarding plastic and fair shopping practices
Background information for teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fairness • Microplastics



Potential follow-up topics

- Sharing Economy, Mobilitätskosten – Auto & Co, Finanzmarkt und Vermögensanlage, Was kostet die Welt?, Erstes Wohnen, Medienkonsum, Reisen, Verbraucherorganisationen, Fleischkonsum
- Translations into English are already available for selected topics. You can access them at www.konsumentenfragen.at

Sources & links

Fair trade:

www.fairtrade.net/uk-en.html

www.greenpeace.org

www.fairphone.com/de

www.fairytale-fashion.at

<https://cleanclothes.org>

Plastic and microplastics:

www.zeit.de/thema/plastik

www.global2000.at/plastik

www.umweltbundesamt.at/umweltthemen/stoffradar/was-ist-mikroplastik

www.die-debatte.org/thema/plastikmuell

www.bmluk.gv.at/service/publikationen/landwirtschaft/kunststoffe-mikroplastik-und-deren-inhaltsstoffe-im-boden.html

www.greenpeace.de/engagieren/nachhaltiger-leben/plastikmuell

www.zeit.de/wissen/umwelt/2018-10/mikroplastik-kunststoff-meer-gesundheit-ernaehrung-tiere-gefahren

Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environmental Protection, Regions and Water Management

www.bmluk.gv.at/en/topics/climate-environment/sustainable-development.html