



WALT: know what is meant by the phrase

# 'Considerate Consumer'

Discuss the meaning of the word 'consumer'. A simple definition of a consumer is 'someone who buys goods for their own use'.

Have you bought anything with your pocket money, Christmas money or savings recently? Adults buy things that families needs each week but they also sometimes buy one-off things or special things. All of these purchases mean that we are all 'consumers'.

Let's make a list of things that we are consumers of. Try to think of normal things as well as special things. There are some examples to start you off.

Food—basic	Food—treats	Toys	Electrical	Household	Clothes	Other
Milk	Christmas Chocolate coins	Water pistol	Kettle	Washing-up liquid	Socks	Hamster bedding

Which are the longest lists? Isn't it amazing how many things we consume in our lives?

Now, discuss the meaning of the word 'considerate'. To be *considerate* means think about something carefully and to think about others.

If we put the two words together, what do you think 'Considerate Consumer' means? Try to explain it here:

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When we buy something new, what questions do we *as consumers* ask ourselves?

Read each question below and think carefully about what it means. Discuss it with an adult if you can. Think of which goods (things we buy) it might apply to.

- Do I want it?
- Do I need it?
- Is it value for money?
- Is it fun?
- Is it tasty?
- Is it trendy?
- Is it going to make me popular?
- Is it going to be educational?

Here are some more questions that we don't ask so often, but really we should! Again, think about the meaning of each one. These are **BIG** questions that need lots of thinking and some discussion with an adult.

- Has it been made by people who are paid fairly?
- Has it been made by people who are safe and treated well?
- Has it been made using sustainable resources?
- Has it been made using methods that pollute the environment?
- What will happen to it when I've finished with it?
- Is it responsibly packaged?

**Task:** Draw a picture of you in a shop making a decision to buy something (you can choose what). Draw some thought bubbles around your head and write down some questions that you might be asking yourself. Use any from either list above, or think of your own. Colour your picture. Send your picture to me if you can (via the Submit Work Form—a photo is fine).

**Conclusion:** What sorts of things can we do to be *considerate consumers*? Here are some ideas—perhaps you have your own too. Again, discuss each thing and make sure you understand it.

- Say no to things you don't need.
- Buy Fairtrade\* things.
- Buy locally made things.
- Buy things that aren't made of plastic.
- Buy things that come in minimal/eco-friendly packaging.

\*We're going to learn lots more about Fairtrade over the coming weeks so don't worry if your unsure