

Kid's Activity #10

Imagining a Circular Food System

Learning from nature to create sustainable food systems

“Waste is nothing more than a failure of imagination.”

- Aaron Kramer, poet and social activist



Every year, we create an estimated 2 billion tonnes of waste. If trucks were filled with all this waste and lined up, they would circle the world 24 times!⁴⁸

Think of all the items we buy and only ever use once, like straws, balloons and plastic knives and forks. In fact, 99 percent of the things we buy become garbage within 6 months.⁴⁹ But with a little imagination we can create products and systems where nothing goes to waste.



candied orange and lime peel!

What is a Circular Food System?

In a *circular food system* everyone is fed and nothing is wasted. Just like in nature, we could design everything we make to be repaired, reused, recycled or composted when we're done with it. Check out the great four-minute video [Re-thinking Progress](#)⁵⁰ about our circular economic future.

[Check out the Linear Food Chain vs. Circular Food System diagram](#)⁴⁷

Race to the heart of the circular food system

Time: 45 mins

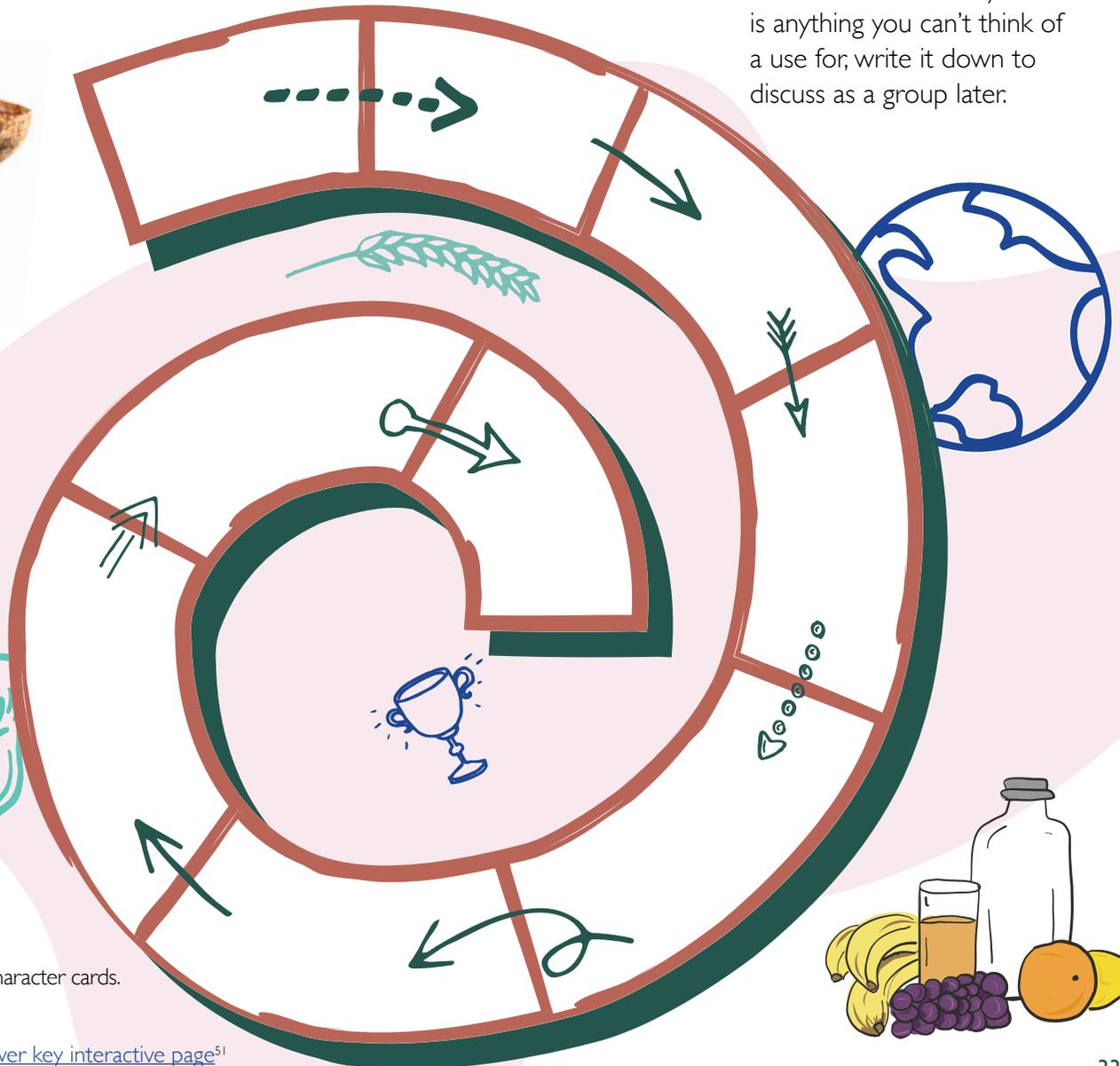
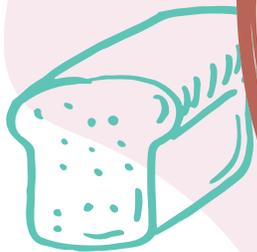


You'll Need:

- Printer
- Scissors
- Game pieces for everyone (coins, seeds or anything small)

Making it Happen:

1. [Print and cut out the character cards.](#)
2. In a group of three or more, find any small item to be your marker and cut out the cards. Turn cards upside down. The first player chooses a random card. This is your food production job.
3. Think about how your product is made and tell the other players. Are there any leftovers after your product was made?
4. What if your food does not get sold? What could you make from it?
5. Do your customers use all of the product? What could they do with what's left? Together, imagine a use for every step of production and waste.
6. If you can think of a use for every part of your product, go three steps. If you get stuck, but someone else can think of more, they go a step for each. It's a race to the heart of the circular food economy! If there is anything you can't think of a use for, write it down to discuss as a group later.



Print and cut out the character cards.
[Find them here.](#)

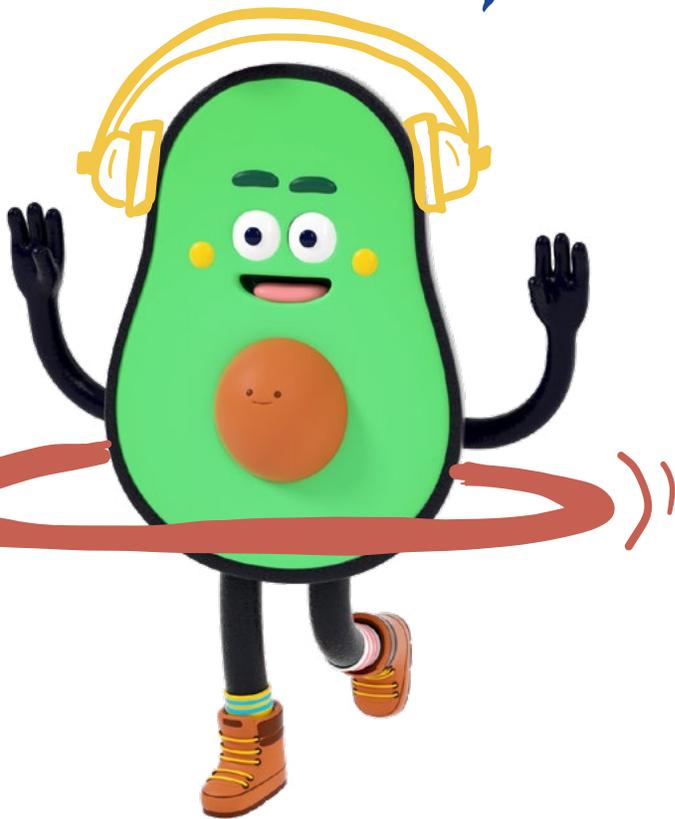
[Closing the Loop answer key interactive page](#)⁵¹

What did you Learn?

- Were there any products that have zero waste?
- Did you think of uses for your product that could help one of the other players/producers?
- Were there any by-products that could be used by another business or that could be turned into a new product?
- Were there still any by-products that no one could find a use for?⁵⁰ Check out our [answer key](#) to help “Close the Loop” for each of the products.

Did you know?

A circular food system can also include using vacant lots and other underused land for growing free, healthy and culturally appropriate food.



Want to do More?

Get on board the closed-loop train challenge.

- Think of someone you know who works with food (parent, friend, neighbor) and invite them to play the game with you. Remember to find a thoughtful way to thank them for participating in the challenge.

CLAIM
10 Systems Thinker
or Influencer points

YUM!
Dried out,
leftover fish
skin!



⁴⁷ Ellen MacArthur Foundation (2017). What is the Circular Economy? <https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/circular-economy>>

⁴⁸ The World Counts (2018). World Waste Facts. <http://www.theworldcounts.com/counters/shocking_environmental_facts_and_statistics/world_waste_facts>

⁴⁹ The World Counts (2018). World Waste Facts. <http://www.theworldcounts.com/counters/shocking_environmental_facts_and_statistics/world_waste_facts>

⁵⁰ Ellen MacArthur Foundation (2011). Re-thinking Progress. The Circular Economy. <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zCRKvDyyHmI>>

⁵¹ Closing the Loop answer key interactive page. <<https://prezi.com/view/4j3BaXG70KjTaa3i5OTt/>>