

Sustainable Style: Design a Lifer

What is Lifers all about?

In 2019, Artist Noelle Hamlyn collected some life jackets that had washed up on a beach, and these life jackets inspired the idea behind *Lifers*.

Noelle found previously-used clothing in thrift stores and other places, and tailored them to cover the life jackets. By connecting these two objects, Noelle invites people to think about:

- · Our relationship with the clothes we wear
- · The impact of the fashion industry on water and climate change
- · What we should consider important to us as the climate continues to change.

When Noelle is creating a Lifer, she thinks about the style of the clothing, how it was originally meant to be worn, how it was made, what the worn spots say about how its original owner wore it, and how it was decorated.

Noelle wants to remind us that every piece of clothing holds a story worth preserving, and Lifers help to tell that story.

At the same time, Lifers also make us think about how the ways we make and use our clothes affects the Earth around us,

The effects of the fashion industry affect water, the climate, the workers involved, and the waste we produce.

By putting the effort into creating something like a Lifer, we can train ourselves to think more carefully about how our actions affect these “Four Ws,” and how we can imagine better climate futures.

1. Explore the Lifers information on stops 1, 2, and 3 of the [Sustainable Style tour](#). Pay close attention to how the fashion industry affects Water, Warming, Workers, and Waste.
2. As you explore, write down some words that you think are important.

These could be words from the *Lifers* information and other stops around ROM, or feelings that they make you feel.

3. Use the space below, an extra piece of paper, a slide deck, or a word cloud generator to give weight to your words from step 2.

Words that you think are more important should be larger, and words that you think are less important should be smaller.

Arrange your words into a word cloud, or use a word cloud generator to do it for you.

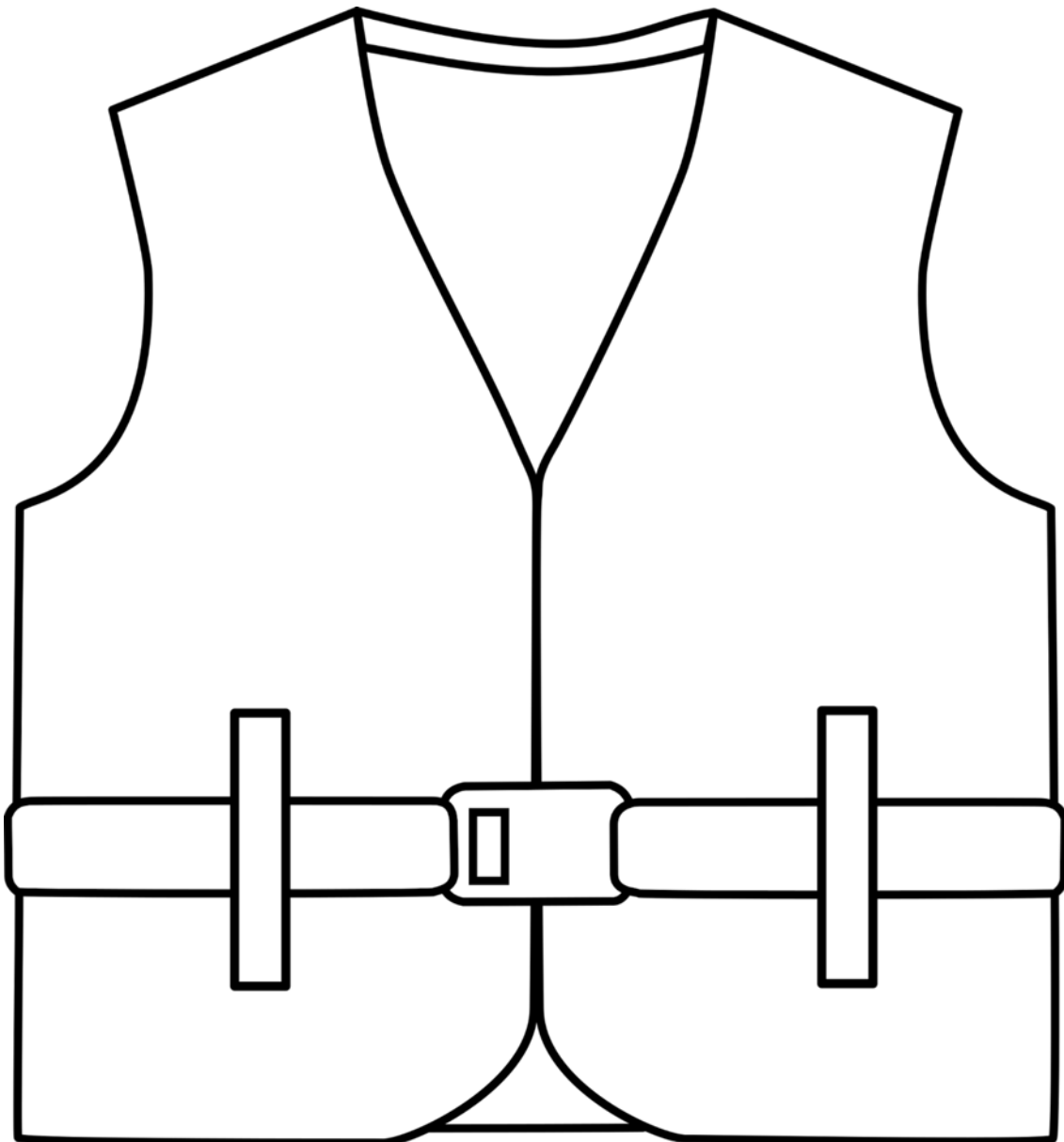
4. Using the word cloud you created for inspiration, chose something you wear now (or have worn in the past) that:
 - Is important to you
 - You can connect to some or all of the words in your word cloud, especially the bigger ones.

Describe the piece of clothing you chose, and why you chose it.

I chose....

5. "Tailor" the piece of clothing you chose in Step 4 to fit onto a Lifer. You could:
- Draw your design onto the Lifer template and colour it in.
 - Cut apart photos of your piece of clothing and use the pieces to cover your Lifer template. (Only do this if you don't wear it any more!)
 - If your chosen clothing is part of the Class Depository, cut scraps of fabric and use them to cover your Lifer template.
 - Use digital tools and photos of your piece of clothing to cover a digital version of your Lifer.

Follow your teacher's instructions about how they want you to create your Lifer.



6. When creating a display of art like Lifers, artists will write an Artist's Statement to explain the meaning behind the art [Find and read Noelle Hamlyn's Artist's Statement in the Lifers Information](#).
7. Write your own Artist's Statement for your Lifer.

GROUP ACTIVITY

Collect your Lifers, Artist's Statements, and (optional) word clouds into your own classroom *Lifers* exhibition.