



Designers Help Protect the Environment

KS2 DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Ages 10-12 ⌚ 3 min read

What Does a Designer Do?

Designers are people who plan how things look and work. They design everything from clothes and phones to buildings and cars. But here's the exciting part: designers can make choices that help protect our **environment** — the land, water, air, and living things around us.

Choosing Better Materials

One big way designers help is by picking **sustainable materials**. These are materials that don't damage the planet or run out quickly. Instead of using plastic that stays in the ground for hundreds of years, designers might use **recycled plastic** (plastic that's been used before and remade into something new) or natural materials like bamboo that grow back fast.

Think of it like choosing to wear clothes made from old T-shirts instead of always buying brand-new fabric — you're reusing what already exists!

Designing Things to Last Longer

When designers make products that are **durable** (last a long time), fewer things get thrown away. If your phone lasts five years instead of two, less **electronic waste** ends up in landfills. Designers also make things easier to repair so we don't have to replace them as often.

Using Less Energy and Water

Smart designers think about how much energy and water their products need. They might design a washing machine that uses less water, or a building with better insulation so you need less heating. Some designers create products powered by **renewable energy** like solar power instead of electricity from fossil fuels.

Think of it like turning off the tap while brushing your teeth — small choices save lots of water!

Packaging That Doesn't Hurt Nature

Many designers now create **eco-friendly packaging** — the wrapping around products. Instead of lots of plastic, they use cardboard, paper, or materials that break down naturally in the soil. Some companies are even designing packaging you can plant in a garden!

Why Does This Matter?

Our planet has limited resources, and pollution is harming animals, plants, and our own health. By making smart design choices, designers can help solve **climate change**, reduce waste, and protect forests and oceans. Every product designed with the environment in mind makes a real difference.