**Diamonds**

Diamonds are one of the most expensive and luxurious things a person can buy. They are very desirable, but there is a dark side to diamonds that tells a story of modern slavery.

**Blood Diamonds**

People who mine for ‘blood diamonds’ are forced to work for rebel leaders and the diamonds are sold to buy weapons to fight wars. Many of those who work in the mines are enslaved. They are threatened with violence and forced to work by the rebels and some people are victims of debt bondage.

The conditions in these mines are awful. Over a million diamond diggers in Africa are being paid less than $1 a day - not enough to live on. These workers lack basic things like clean water, don’t have enough food, nor any access to education. Mines are also very dangerous places to work, especially when proper safety equipment or tools are not provided.

**Child Labour**

There are many children working in these mines. They are forced to work long days, often without time off. It is dangerous work and because children can fit into smaller spaces than adults, they are often asked to do the most dangerous jobs in the mines. Spending all their time working, they do not go to school. Without an education, they will not be able to get a good job when they are older, so are forced to keep working in the mines.

While we now know a lot more about where diamonds come from and can stop buying blood diamonds, and stopping money going to the rebels, modern slavery in diamond mines is still taking place today.

Using the art works by South Atlantic Souvenirs and Trouble as inspiration, and the template on your worksheet, design some packaging which will alert people to the cruelty of modern slavery in the mining of diamonds.

*Debt bondage –* when someone is forced to work to pay off a debt

*Mine –* a deep hole dug in the ground in order to extract materials

*Luxurious* – often very expensive

*Rebel forces* – people fighting against the government

*Conflict –* a long, serious and sometimes violent argument