**Garments**

Many modern-day slaves are technically ‘free’ to leave their workplace. However, many of them would face homelessness, starvation and punishment if they did not work. In these situations, employers take advantage of people’s need to look after themselves and their family by making them work long hours in terrible conditions for very little pay. This is modern slavery.

**Fashion**

Fashion is a big global industry, worth a lot of money, but in the manufacturing process – from growing the cotton, to sewing the clothes - slave labour is used. 71% of fashion companies say there is a 'likelihood of modern slavery occurring at some stage of their supply chain.' Many businesses try to make sure they only buy ethically made clothes, but it is not always easy to check that this happens.

*Un*ethical businesses are always looking for ways to cut corners, in order to make more money. One way to do this is to pay workers less and not invest to make sure they are safe in the workplace.

**Factory workers in Bangladesh**

In Bangladesh, 3.5 million workers in 4,825 garment factories produce clothes for all around the world, especially North America and Europe. Many people working in these factories are victims of modern slavery. Workers are paid the minimum wage, which is not enough to give them a good quality of life. They have to work extremely long hours – up to 15 hours a day – and have to meet strict targets, meaning they don’t get proper breaks to go to the toilet or eat. People have to work in hot, cramped conditions and often the factories are not safe.

In 2013, a factory collapsed killing 1,100 people, and since then, efforts have been made to provide better working conditions for people, but there are still many factories in Bangladesh that don’t have any safety rules.

There are many stages that go towards making the clothes we buy in local shops. This makes it very difficult to be sure that a product has not been made using slavery. Using the art works of South Atlantic Souvenirs and Trouble as inspiration, and the template on your worksheet, design some packaging which will alert people to the appalling cruelty of modern slavery in the production of garments.

*Garment* – an item of clothing

*Minimum* – smallest amount

*Ethically* – demonstrating respect for things like honesty, fairness, equality, dignity and diversity. An ethical product would not be harmful to people or the environment