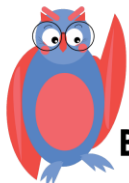




VOTES FOR SCHOOLS

Primary 7-11

In partnership with **Parentkind**
Bringing together home & school



Be informed.



Be curious.



Be heard.

What is VotesforSchools all about?



Dear Parents & Carers,

Each week, VotesforSchools creates resources for teachers to help them have a debate with their classes. At the end of the discussion, the children vote on a question and leave their comments. We then gather that data together to inform the world of what our voters think about the pressing issues of the day! It is very important to us that young people know that they are being heard, so we feed back to them the change their voices are making.

Through our Home Information Sheets, we encourage these discussions to continue outside the classroom. We are delighted to be working with Parentkind to share one of our debates with you each term so you can have topical conversations with your children.

We hope you enjoy the discussion. Do let us know how you get on!

The VotesforSchools Team



Starter: The fabric of fashion



Polyester is a popular **material** used for making clothes. It's **not natural**, and is **man-made**.

Activity (2-3 mins)

Can you guess how many **years** it can take for **clothes made with polyester** to break down once they have been **thrown away**?



_____ years



Starter: The fabric of fashion



Some clothes are made **quickly** using polyester and other materials. However, they impact our **environment** for a **long time** after they've been thrown away!

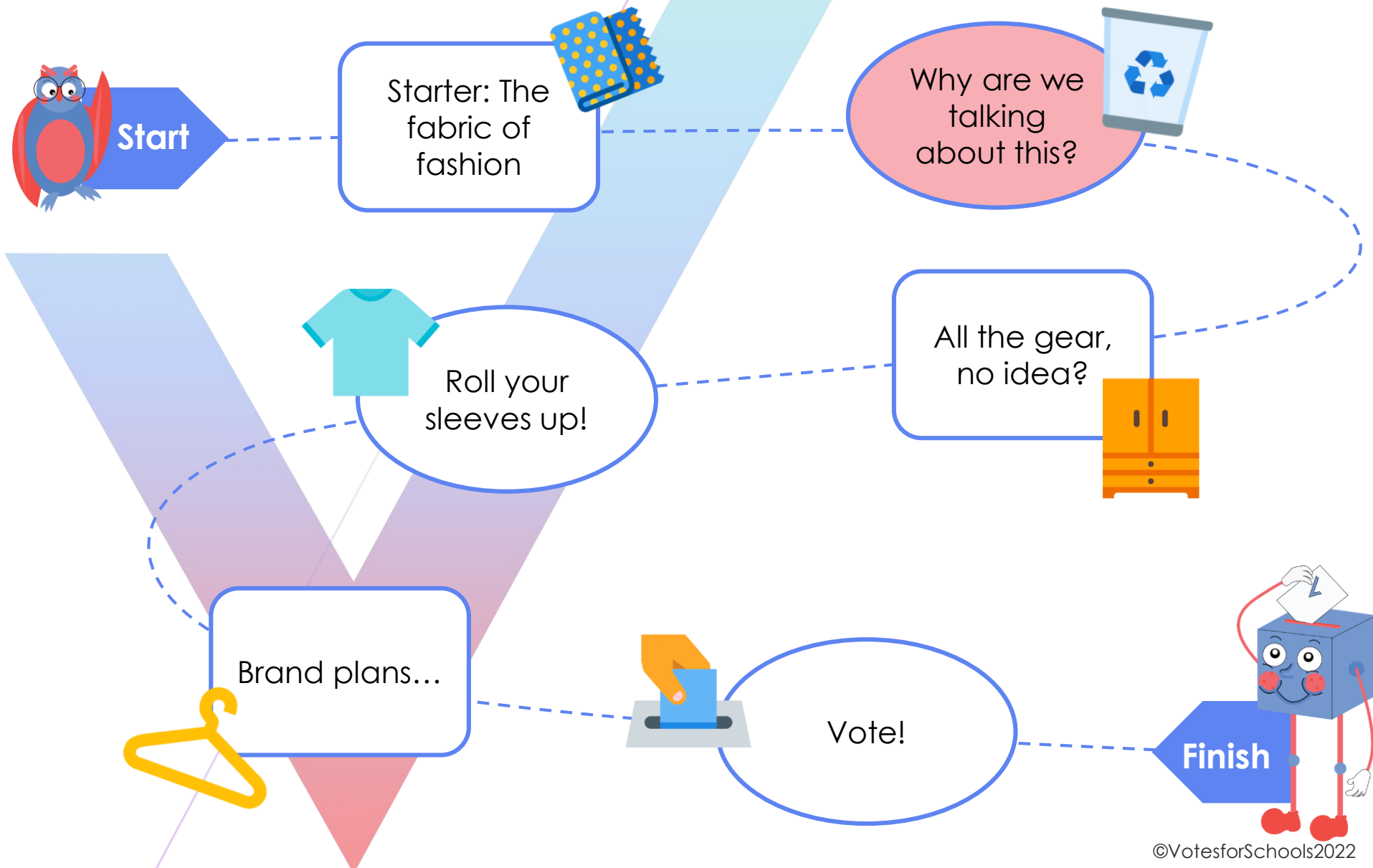
Did you know?
Polyester contains **microplastics**. These are tiny pieces of plastic.

200 years

Can the fashion industry slow down its impact on the environment?



Journey around fast fashion!



Why are we talking about this?



We wear clothes every day, but many of us don't often think about **where they come from** or **the impact they have on the planet**. Often, people like to make sure that they are **following fashion trends**.



Trend:

To wear something that becomes fashionable, and other people copy.

Challenge yourselves...

What do you do with your clothes when you no longer use them?

Why are we talking about this?



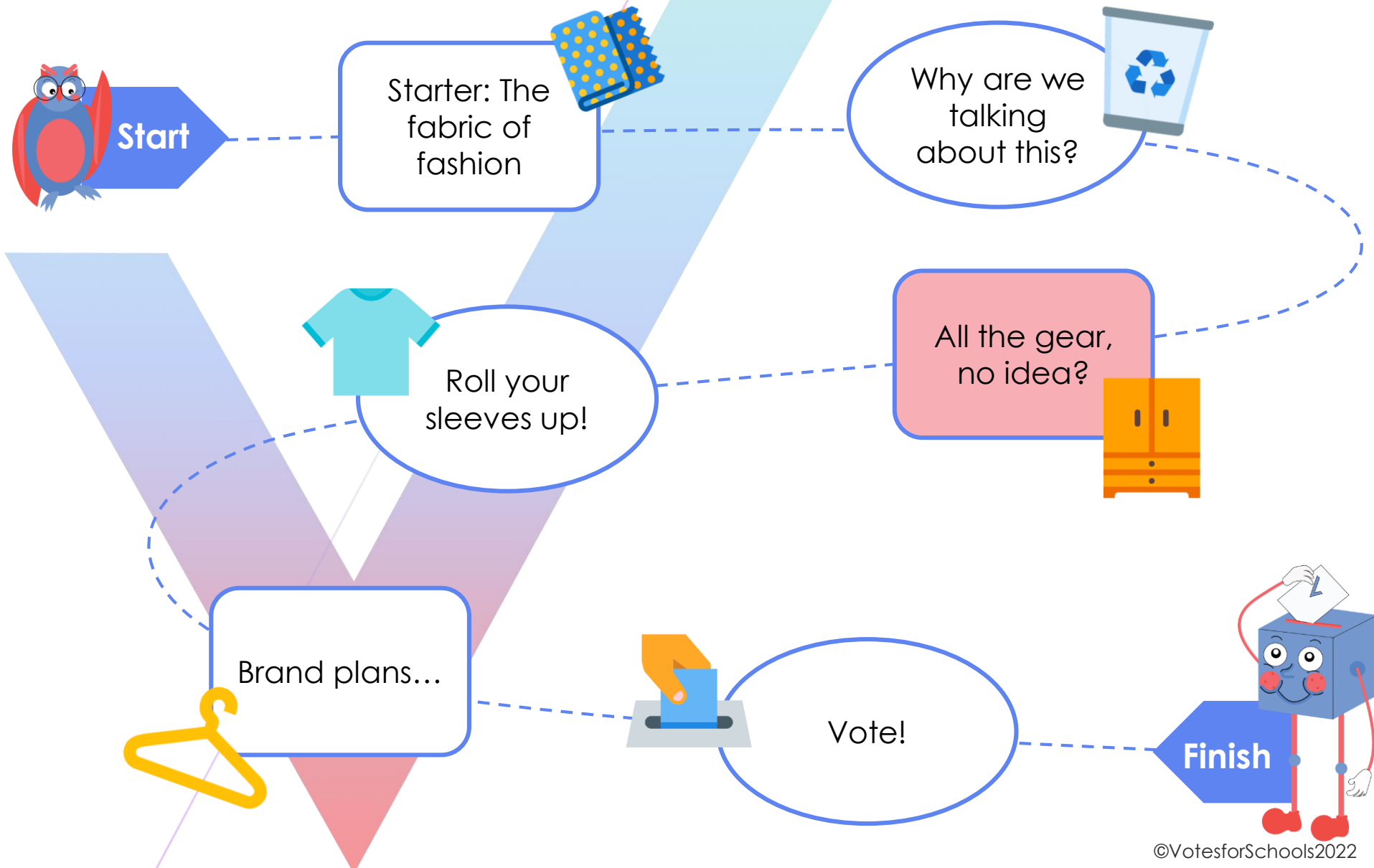
Every year, the charity **Oxfam** sets us a challenge: to only buy **second hand clothes for 30 days**. This is also known as **Second Hand September!**

So, why is buying **second hand clothes** so much **better for the environment**? That's what you are going to explore during your **discussion** today.



Second hand:
When something is not new and has been used by someone else before.

Journey around fast fashion!





All the gear, no idea?



Activity (5-10 mins)

To begin, you are going to read some **key facts** about the clothing industry. **Use your hands to show** if you knew about this already, had some idea of this, or had no idea about this.





All the gear, no idea?



Fast fashion:

Clothes that are created at high speed and low cost.

Clothes that are bought from shops like H&M, Primark and Zara are known as "fast fashion".

I knew about this already!



I had no idea about this!



All the gear, no idea?



I knew about this already!



I had no idea about this!



All the gear, no idea?



Did you know?

This could fill Loch Lomond in Scotland 12.5 times!

The amount of water used by making clothes every year is 93 billion cubic metres.

I knew about this already!



I had no idea about this!



All the gear, no idea?



Did you know?

Landfill is a place where waste is buried in the ground.

In the UK, we throw away 350,000 tonnes of clothes each year.

I knew about this already!



I had no idea about this!



All the gear, no idea?



Take a moment...

Did any of these facts surprise you? Why?

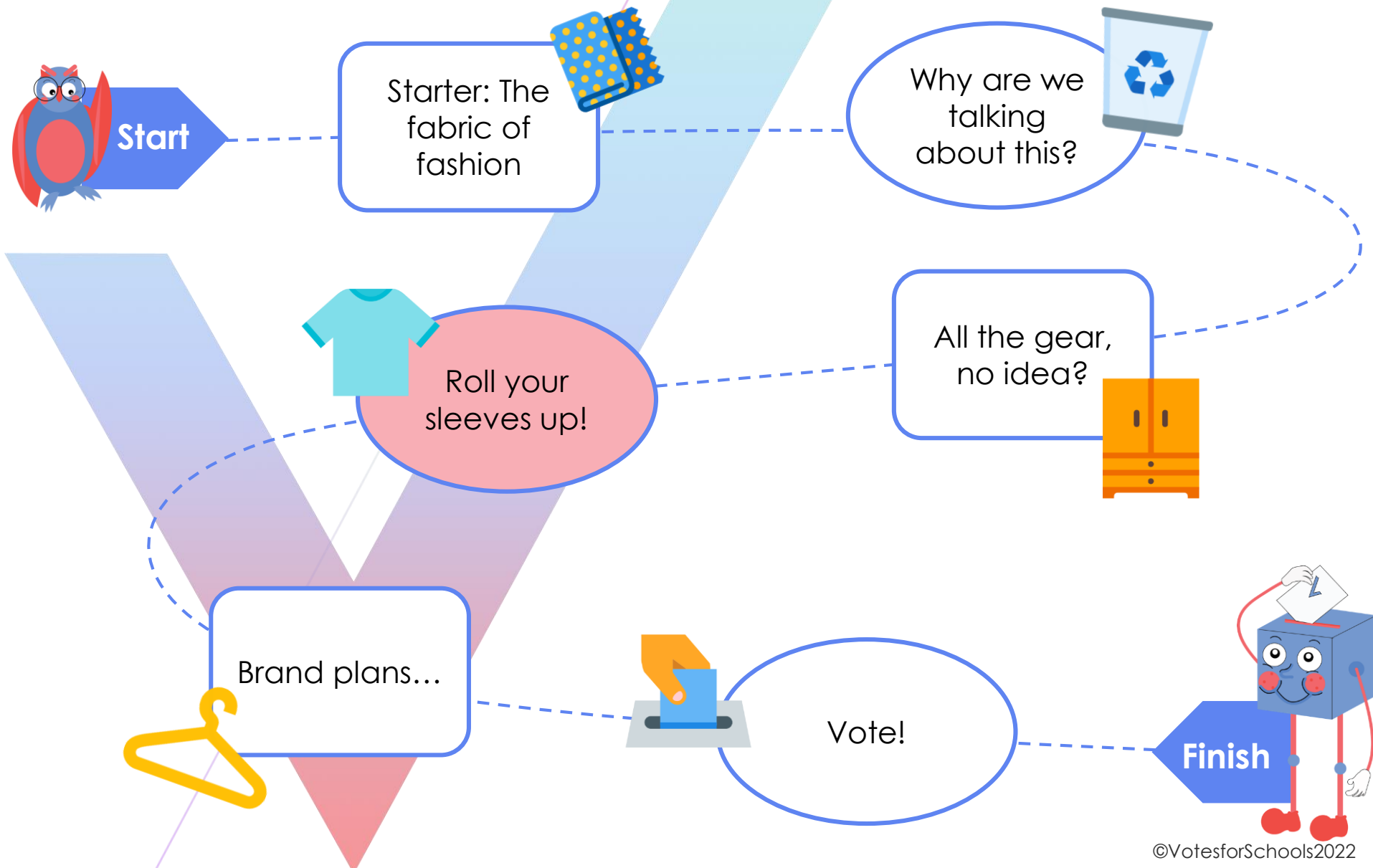
The microplastics in polyester end up in our oceans when we wash our clothes.

I knew about this already!



I had no idea about this!

Journey around fast fashion!





Roll your sleeves up!



Discussion (2-3 mins)

Look at the question below and share your thoughts with your family and friends.



How much of a problem do you think fast fashion is?

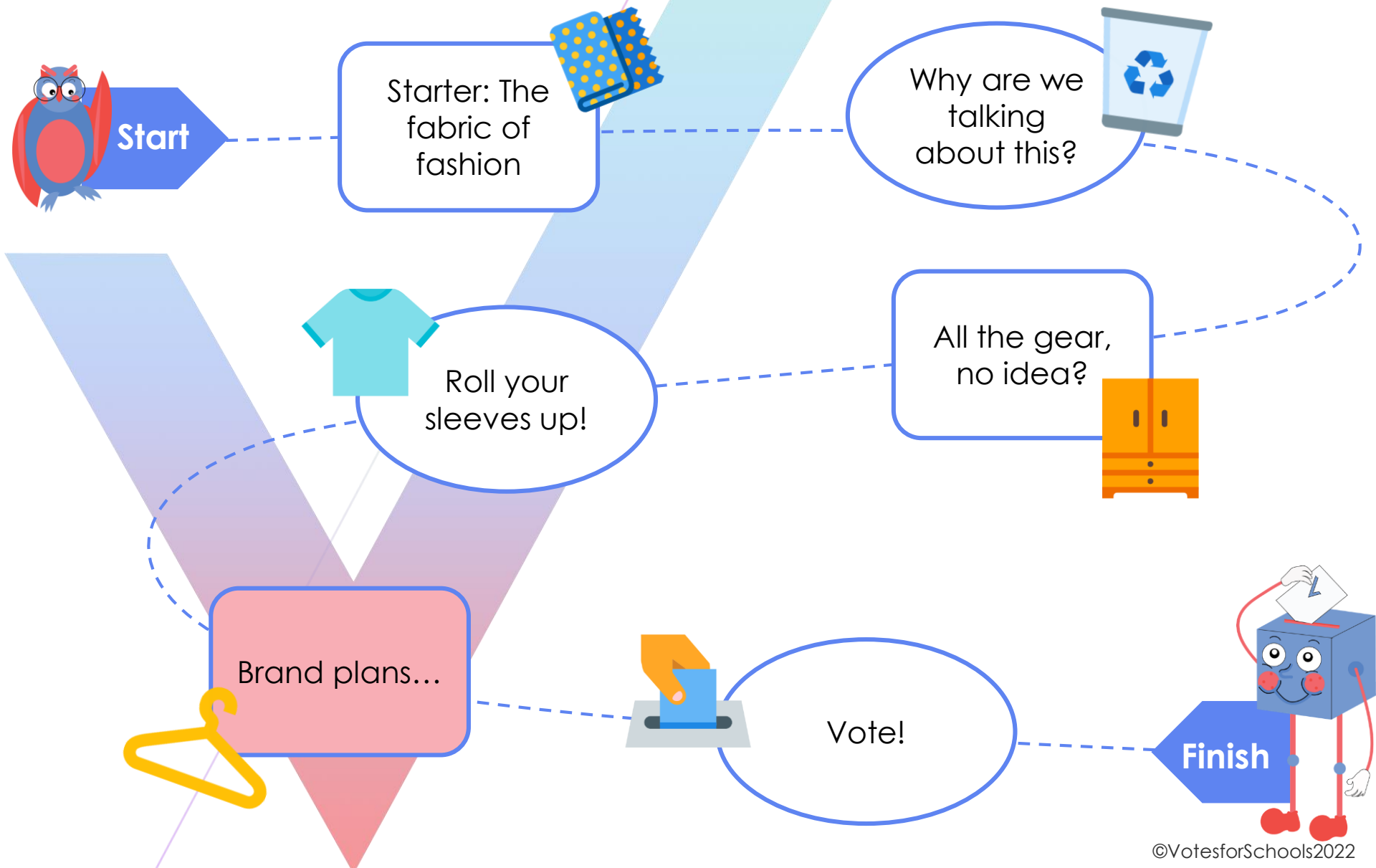


I think fast fashion is **a big problem** because...

I think fast fashion is **a bit of a problem** because...

I think fast fashion is **not a problem** because...

Journey around fast fashion!





Brand plans...



Activity (5-10 mins)

Over the next few slides, you are going to read about the **changes brands are making** to be **more environmentally-friendly**.

Tell your family and friends how much of an impact you think each story will have on the environment, **1 being the least impact** and **5 being the most impact**.



Least
impact

1

2

3

4

5

Most
impact



Brand plans...



Since 2019, *Oxfam* has encouraged people to buy only **second hand clothes** each September.

When we **buy** clothes at a charity shop like *Oxfam*, the **money** is used to **help** those in need.



Least
impact

1

2

3

4

5

Most
impact



Brand plans...



The owner of **Patagonia**, who make outdoor clothing, has **given away** the company.

Any money that is not needed to help run the company will now be spent on **tackling climate change** (around **\$100m per year**).



Least
impact

1

2

3

4

5

Most
impact



Brand plans...



Fast fashion brand **George at Asda** are encouraging shoppers to donate their unwanted clothes in store.

Rather than end up in landfill, these clothes will be reused or recycled. The money raised will be donated to charity.



Least
impact

1

2

3

4

5

Most
impact



Brand plans...



Discussion (2-3 mins)

Look at the question below and reflect on your answer. Share your thoughts with your family and friends.

How are the companies you looked at slowing down their impact on the environment?

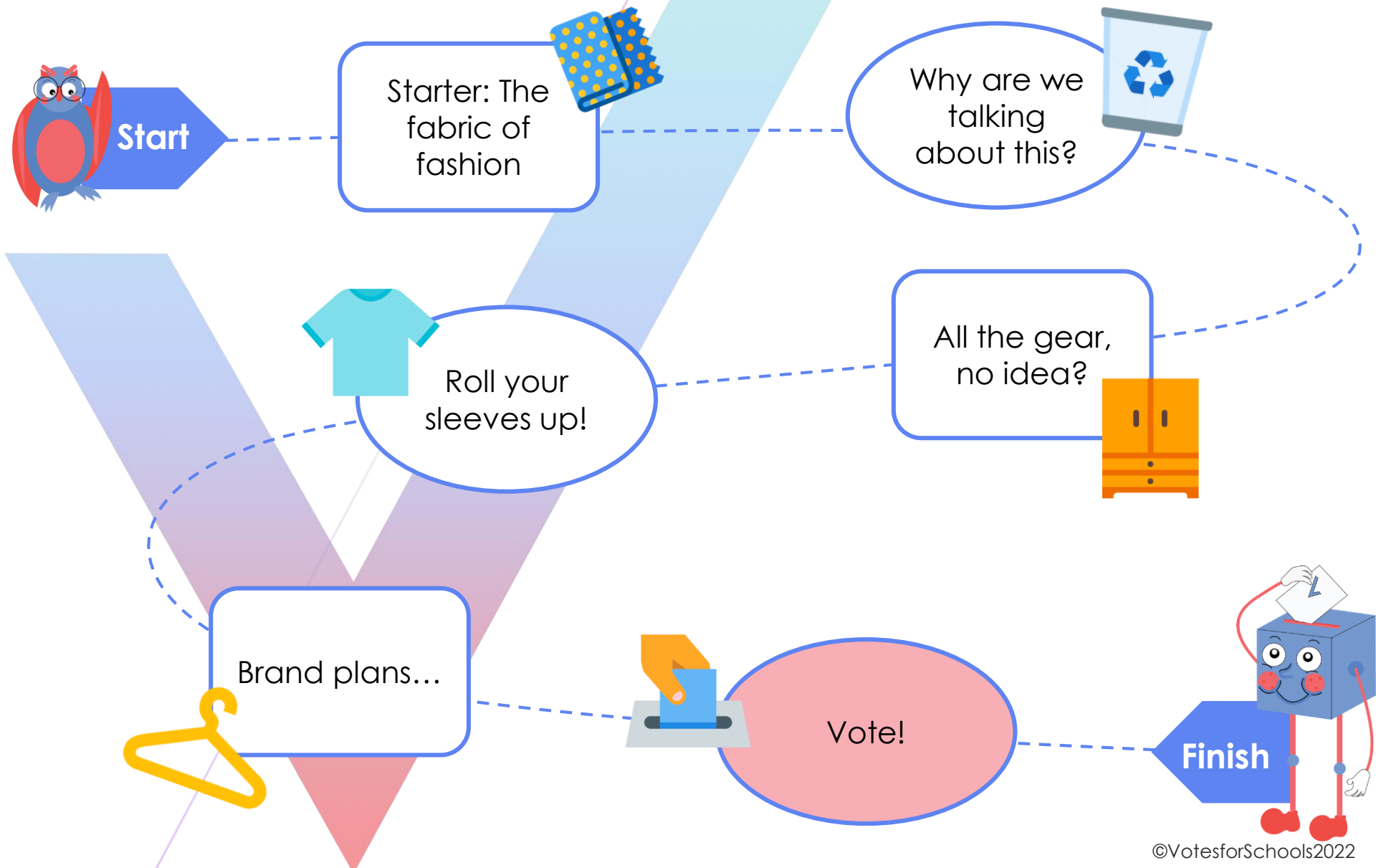
Challenge yourselves...

Could these companies do more?
What could they do?

Take a moment...

Could you do more to slow down your impact on the environment?

Journey around fast fashion!





Vote!



Some brands are trying to make clothes in a more environmentally-friendly way.

People are being encouraged to buy second hand clothes.

Some companies are donating money to help the environment and tackle the climate crisis.

Can the fashion industry slow down its impact on the environment?

Brands are still producing lots of clothes based on the trends.

Some people don't want to wear second hand clothes.

Some companies are still adding to the climate crisis with the clothes they make.



Have your say!



Want to have you say about this VoteTopic?

Click the icons below to head over to our social media pages and share your thoughts!



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Please Note:

Only people aged 13+ should be using these social media platforms. Please ask a trusted adult to share your thoughts with us.