

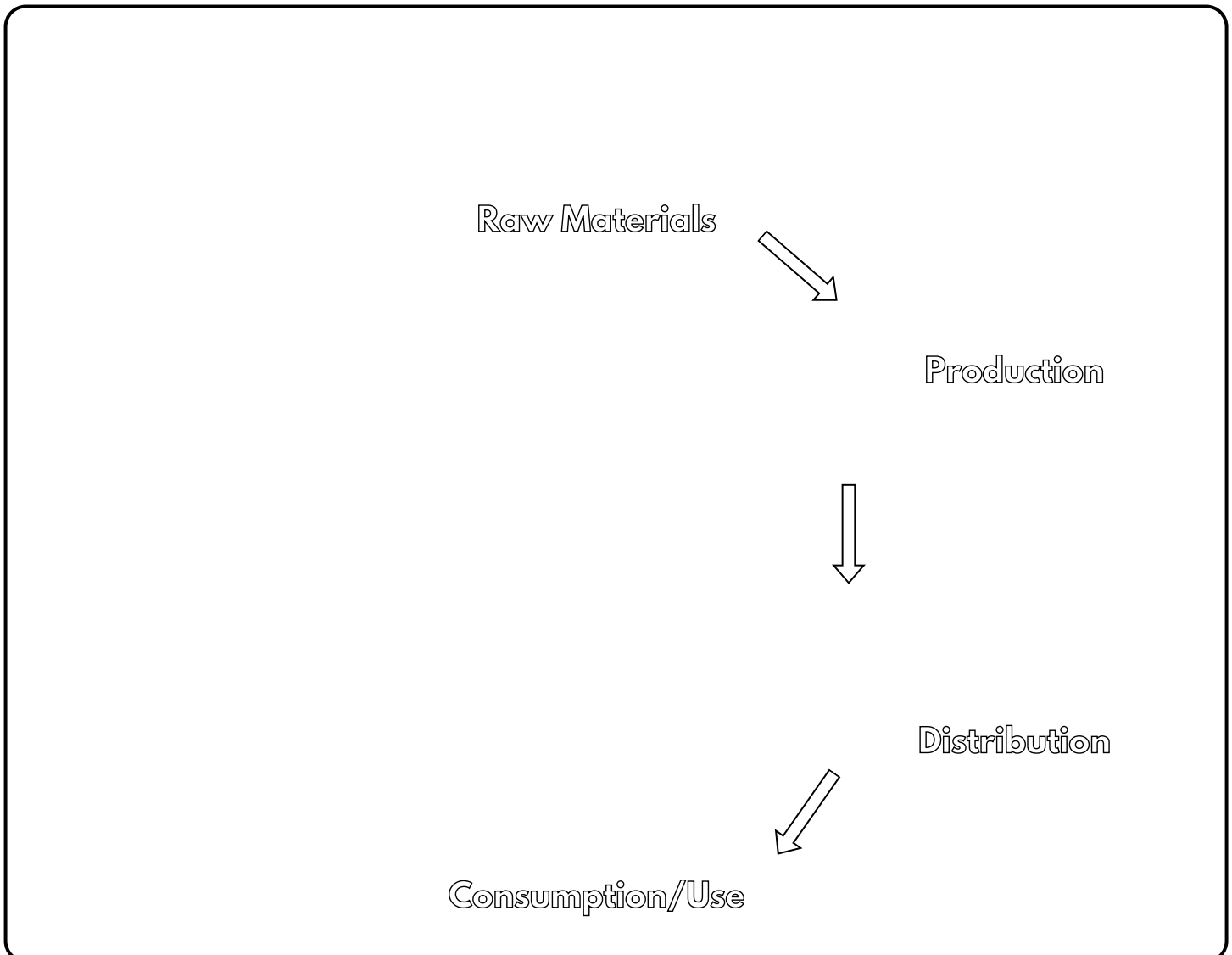
MY CIRCLE OF STUFF

The “Circle of Stuff” begins with **Raw Materials**. These are anything we harvest from nature, such as food, wood, minerals, or petroleum. What we do with these raw materials, and where our stuff goes when we’re done with them can have very different effects on the environment.

Next, we **Produce** items from the raw materials, and **Distribute** them to **Consumers** – that’s us! After we are done with our stuff, we need to decide what to do with it. We can choose to **compost**, **recycle**, or send it to **landfill**.

In a circular economy, we reuse, repair, and recycle items before we throw them away. This way, we use fewer raw materials and introduce less waste to the environment.

Think of something you use regularly, such as a juice box, electronic, book, or toy. Use the space below to create your own “Circle of Stuff” showcasing how that item was made, how it got to you, how you use it, and what you will do when you are finished with it.



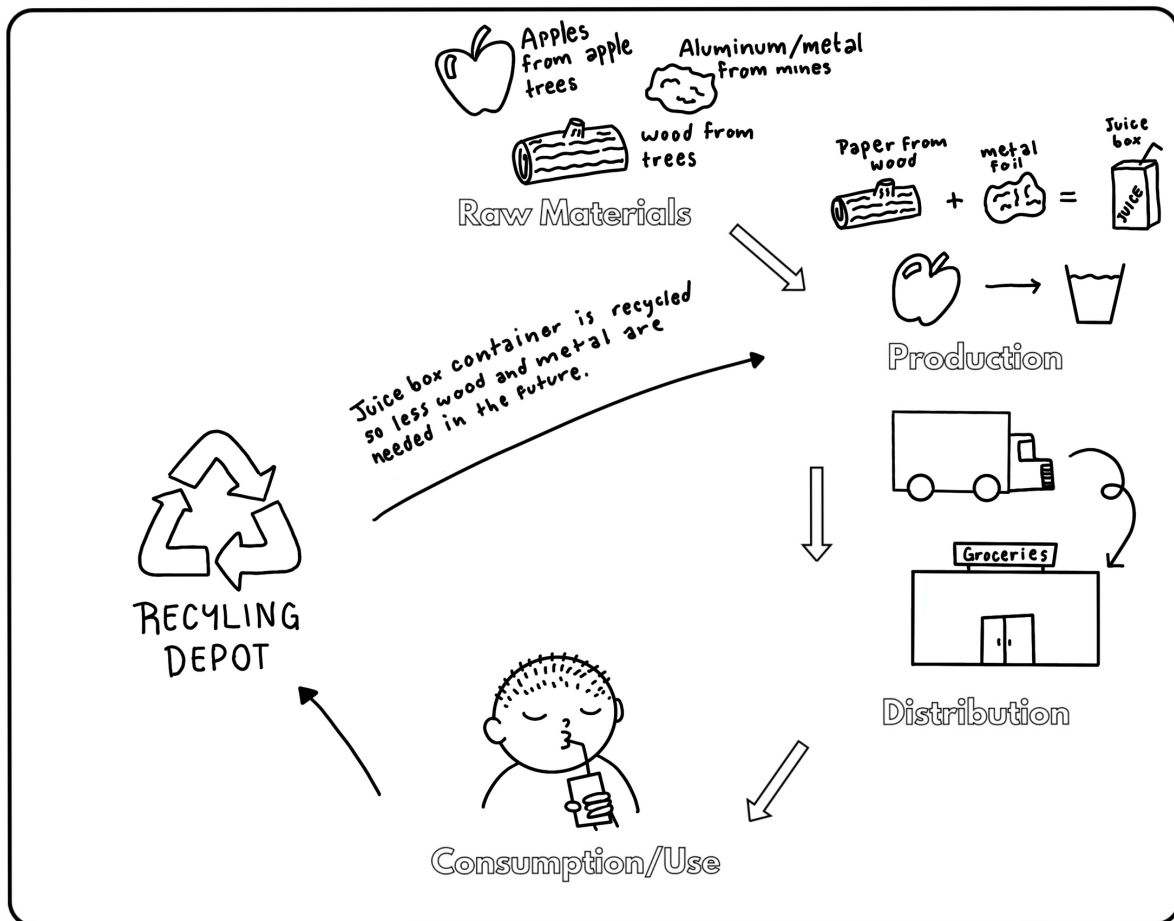
Waste In Our World: Chapter One

MY CIRCLE OF STUFF: TEACHER RESOURCE

All of our “stuff” begins as raw materials. What we do with those raw materials, and where our stuff goes when we’re done with it can have very different effects on the environment. In this activity, students will recall the circular economy described in the module and create their own “Circle of Stuff” showcasing an item they use regularly.

In the box on the module worksheets, students will draw each step in their “Circle of Stuff”. Only the first four steps are included, as students will have to decide how to dispose of their item and complete the circle. They may choose to recycle, reuse, repair, or compost their waste, or send it to landfill.

Sample:



Extension Activities:

- Discuss with students how they could improve the first steps in their circular economies to make them more sustainable.
- Choose one item from student work and brainstorm how it could be repurposed.