

Future Bear

The UK Industrial Decarbonisation
Research and Innovation Centre
(IDRIC)
www.idric.org

Every teddy bear comes from somewhere.

Every bear is made.

Every bear is made using materials like fabric, stuffing, buttons, plastic, thread and other things.
Every bear is made by somebody.

Sometimes they are made in a big factory using large machines.

People even make bears themselves in their homes with smaller sewing machines or by hand.

Every bear finds a home. Some bears go to the shops first before they get chosen.

Every bear has a journey that takes them from being made to finding a new home.

This is the story of four teddy bears and what they have to do with helping the planet.



New Bear is brand new.

They were made from brand new materials in a big factory.

They were then transported in a big lorry to the shop where someone chose them and brought them home in a car or bus.

New bear is a good bear, sometimes we need new things and that is ok.

When a teddy bear, or any other thing we buy in a shop is brand new it had to be made and transported.

This creates some waste. One of these types of waste is called carbon dioxide.

Carbon dioxide is a gas that can be bad for the planet if we make too much of it.

We also call this CO₂ (C-Oh-two).

Making New Bear made quite a lot of CO₂ because they are so new.

The materials they are made from, the energy the factory uses, the engine of the lorry to take them to the shop, and the engine of the car to drive New Bear to their new home all make carbon dioxide.



Hand-me-down Bear was once a new bear.

Hand-me-down Bear is still a good bear.

Now their owner wants someone else to be able to look after them.

They could take it to the charity shop or give them away to someone they know.

Hand-me-down Bear doesn't need new materials to be made again in a factory.

They don't need to go on a long journey in a big lorry.

This bear's journey to finding a new home is one short car or bus trip to the charity shop and one short car or bus journey home.

This makes much less CO₂ than New Bear.



Repair Bear was once a new bear.

Repair bear is still a good bear.

There is a tear in this bear.

What could we do?

We could get a new bear, but this bear will still do.

Using a needle and thread and some fabric, Repair Bear is mended.

Repair Bear doesn't need to be made again in a factory.

They don't need to go on a big journey in a lorry, or a car or a bus.

Repair Bear is already home.

They only need a very small amount of new materials to be mended.

In fact, those materials could even be recycled. Repair bear doesn't make much CO₂ at all.



Future Bear is a type of new bear.

Future Bear is a good bear.

Future Bear does need to be made in a factory, using materials and going on a journey in a lorry to a shop.

Future Bear needs someone to take them home too.

There is something that makes Future Bear different from New Bear.

Future Bear has been helped by people whose job it is to solve problems.

These people look at ways to make teddy bears that are better for the planet by making less CO₂ when new items are created.

It is their job to think about:

- Greener ways to power the teddy bear factories.

- Better ways to make plastic, fabric and stuffing for bears.

- New ways to power the lorries, buses and cars to transport bears.

- How to recycle the material used to make bears.

- Sharing bears locally so that they don't have to travel too far.

Future Bear creates less carbon dioxide than New Bear because of the people who come up with good ideas to help the planet. They are helping the planet and so can you!



Things you can do to help at home

Sometimes we need new things and that is ok. Everything that we buy from teddy bears to new fridges to food have a different journey to get to us. Some of those journeys make a lot of CO₂ and some make only a little.

If we need something new it is good ask yourself first:

- Can we use something we already have?
- Can we repair it?
- Can we borrow it?
- Can we get it from somewhere made or grown locally?
- Can we recycle it when we are finished?
- Can we get a new one that has been made with green-solutions in mind?
- Does this item use energy? Can we choose one that uses less energy than usual?

Any time you ask these questions you will be helping the planet.

Now it's time for you to be a problem-solver and make your own Future Bear!

Using the activity sheet – design a Future Bear that will be better for the planet.

You can colour, draw and write down your ideas for how to make a better bear in the future.



Design your own Future Bear that can be made in a way that helps the environment.

Think about technology and materials that could be invented so that we create less carbon dioxide.

You can use green ideas that already exist or create some of your own!

Future Bear Activity Sheet

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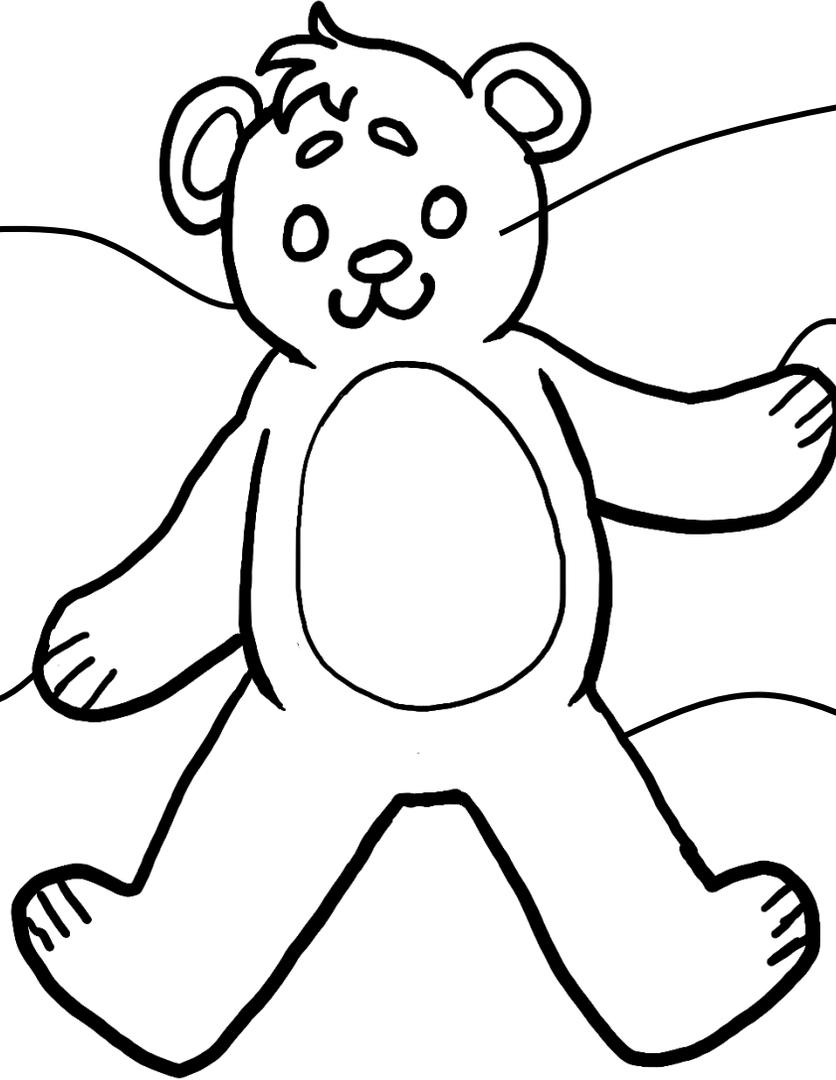
What makes your Future Bear special?

Name one choice you can make at home to help the planet:

What will power the factory that makes this bear?

How will they be transported to shops and homes?

Any other ideas to make Future Bear better for the planet?



Name:

Class: