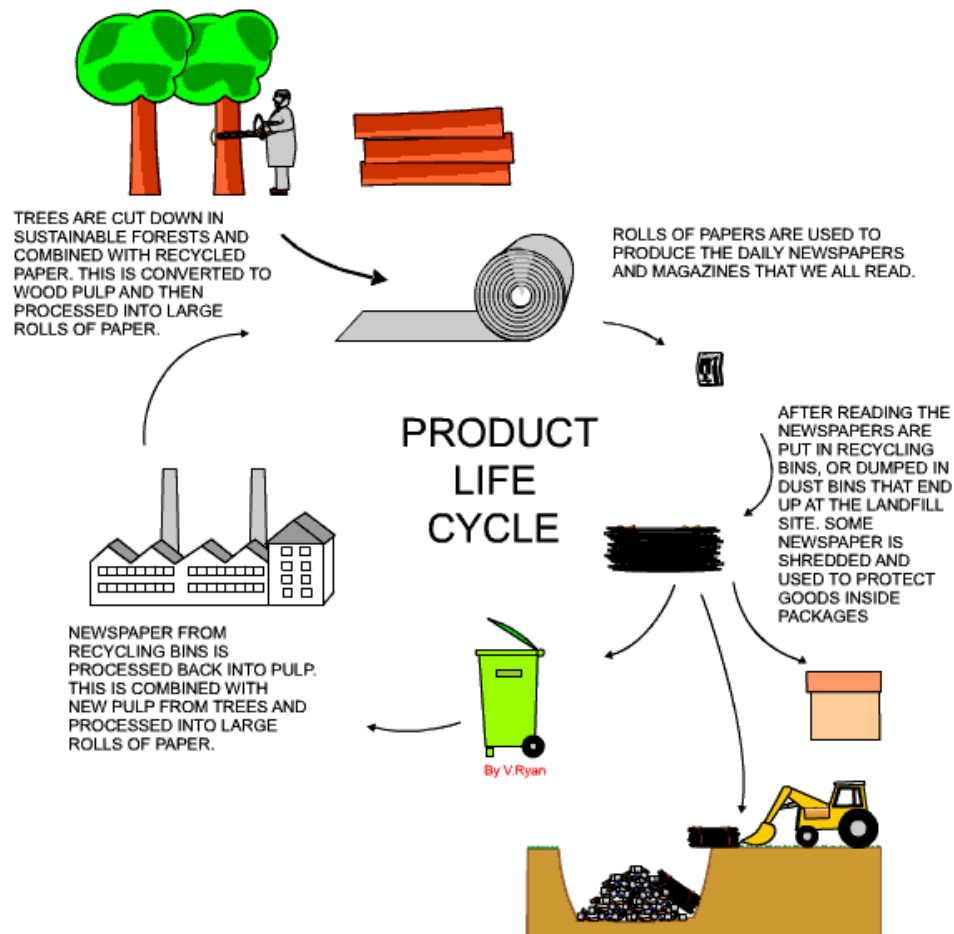


Product lifecycle

When designing and manufacturing a product it is important to consider its life cycle. Life cycle covers the time from its manufacture to its recycling or disposal. A typical product that has a relatively short life cycle is a newspaper / magazine. Everyone reads newspapers / magazines at some point in their lives and many read a newspaper every day. As the recycling of products becomes more popular it is important that we consider all the products we use, even the humble newspaper, as a valuable resource even after its 'useful life time'. The life cycle of a simple newspaper is considered below.



It is commonsense to recycle as much reusable material as possible. Products made from recycled materials are usually cheaper than those made from newly processed materials. Recycling products is good for the environment and means that we are using less of the world's resources.

Recycling materials such as steel, copper, brass and other metals reduces pollution caused by the processing of new metals and it saves energy. It also means that the world's valuable and irreplaceable materials will last longer. For example, it is estimated that in forty years the world's reserves of copper ore will have run out. Copper is vital in much of the electrical equipment we use. Recycling used and discarded copper will extend the length of time copper is available. It will allow technologists time to find alternative materials capable of replacing copper.

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Yr. 7 reading homework 2

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