

Engels: reading comprehension: Wild economics

*Topic: ✓ Consumer society has a negative impact on society

✓ People can survive: happier, w./o. money

* "Mechanisation of our livelihoods and the general flat-packing of the Earth along the assembly line of industrial civilization."

✓ We all do the same: buy same clothes, go to our jobs in the morning, go back to our homes in the evening, since the Industrial Revolution people's lives have become standardized.

✓ Mark believes that we waste so much resources because we as humans are distanced from the production process of stuff.

--> If we would make everything on our own, we wouldn't waste as much as we do today!

✓ No other species on earth has worried about not having money, then why should we?

*Consumer economy --> gift economy

--> Mark became aware of the issues our world is facing thanks to consumer economy

→ deforestation, factory farming, bottom-trawling ...

--> People became detached from products they use and consume

--> That's why people waste more&more!

--> SO: he replaced his sense of consumer economy (buying stuff for money) with gift economy, which is trading skills w./o. expecting something in return.

➔ Difficult: living locally off the land (wild economy) took considerable longer.

*Message to the world

--> Consumer lifestyle doesn't bring happiness (! Materialism !)

→ What brings us happiness: friendship, engagement in community ...