



Lesson 3.5

Environmental Art



Source: Adapted from lesson plans created by Clarice Toler, Stephen F. Austin State University TES course, 1994

Level: Infants/Lower Primary (ages 5 – 9)

Key Terms: reuse

Subjects: Science, Health, Creative Arts

OVERVIEW/BACKGROUND

To show students that reusing items decreases waste.

TIME FRAME

45 minutes – 1 hour

OBJECTIVES

Students will learn how to be kind to the earth by reusing discarded materials creatively.

MATERIALS

This lesson requires the following resources:

- empty salt boxes
- serrated knife (one for each adult)
- coloured markers
- scissors
- old fabric (clothing, sheets, curtains)
- stapler
- ribbons or lace scraps
- Soil
- Seeds (grass or bean sprouts)
- Construction paper or paint
- Feet pattern

PROCEDURE

Activity 1 – Puppets

1. Cut the tops off the saltboxes for students. Then have the children draw faces on the tops.
2. Cut fabric into 20 cm by 20 cm pieces. Help students staple the cloth around the rim of the box top. Staple the open seam together.
3. Have students staple ribbon or lace around the cloth edges. To make the puppet talk, students move the spout back and forth.
4. Enjoy
5. Reuse puppets in a play or use as an environmental message. What are other ways to use the puppets? What are other things we can make?

Activity 2 – Milk Carton Creature

1. Have students cut the top of the milk carton off.
2. Have students place small holes in the bottom of the milk cartons
3. Have students wrap their milk cartons with construction paper leaving the top open
4. Have students draw or paint a face on the milk carton
5. Cut out the feet and glue them to the bottom of the carton do not cover up the holes
6. Plant the seeds inside the milk carton according to the package
7. Water the plants according to the package
8. Within 3 to 5 days the grass will begin to appear
9. When the grass becomes long enough have the students give their creature a hair cut

ASSESSMENT

1. Students should construct a milk carton creature according to the directions.
2. Students should maintain their creature by watering and trimming the sprouts.
3. Students will also be evaluated based on:
 - a. Active participation in class discussion.
 - b. Successful completion of related activities.

- c. Addition of completed items to portfolio (optional).

EXTENSIONS

1. The Class Menagerie-Collect an assortment of junk, such as tubes, boxes, egg cartons, yoghurt cups, plastic panty hose eggs, and so on. The children can make animals for a class zoo. How about oatmeal-carton penguins, shoebox whales, or egg-carton alligators?
2. Berry Baskets-Plastic mesh berry baskets make fine containers. Provide yarn or ribbon that the children can weave through the mesh. Add handles made of leather thongs, pipe cleaners, or string.
3. Foam Picture Frames-Plastic foam trays make attractive picture frames. Wash and dry them, then decorate the edges with glitter, sequins, rick-rack, or lace. Attach one or more pictures to the middle. Attach a picture loop to the back so that the picture can hang.
4. Have a recycling art contest in the class.
5. Have the students complete an art project at home using recycled materials.
6. Visit www.kinderart.com/recycle/ for more exciting environmental art ideas.