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## Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

**Reduce** means to make smaller, to minimize waste and wasted resources.

**Reuse** means to use something again instead of throwing it in the garbage just because you no longer need or want it.

**Recycle** is a process of collecting and sorting materials, such as paper, glass, plastics and metal cans, grinding them up, and then melting them down to make new products.

## Take Action

Keep different size reusable containers in the car for when you need to bring home leftovers from a restaurant. Keep reusable shopping bags in the car too!

Contact Village/City Hall to find out what recycling opportunities are offered in your community. Share the information with your neighbors and classmates.

Organize a community collection for gently-used shoes, clothes, flower vases, or broken holiday lights. Take items to an appropriate drop-off location.

Collect worn-out towels to donate to a local pet shelter (call first) or tie, knot and braid towels to make a dog-pull for the shelter or your own pet.

Collect water in a pitcher while waiting for it to get hot and use it to water indoor plants.

For information on educational programs and resources, visit [swancc.org](http://swancc.org), contact SWANCC at [info@swancc.org](mailto:info@swancc.org) or call (847) 724-9205.

**REDUCE  
REUSE**

**RECREATE**



**Fun For All Ages!**

## REPURPOSED PROJECTS

# IDEAS:

**Repurposed crafts allow children to make unique creations with materials found around the house or with items that are usually thrown away. Reusing conserves resources which is good for our environment and might save money too. Make something new from old!**

- 1 Make a **wind chime** using old keys and string. Add other items that create musical sounds.
- 2 Use cardboard tubes and tape to make a **marble run**.
- 3 Design a one-of-a-kind **puppet** from old socks, buttons, yarn, incomplete game pieces, etc.
- 4 Construct a **piggy bank** by cutting a slit in the plastic lid of an oatmeal container.
- 5 Create **jewelry** by using pop tops and bottle caps. Glue or tie to ribbon or pins.
- 6 Fill old socks or mittens with dried beans or rice to make **bean bags** to toss.
- 7 Mold **new crayons** from broken crayons by melting and remolding them.
- 8 Make a **cloth napkin** by reusing old cloth or a bandana. Decorate with permanent markers.
- 9 Use an old balloon to make a **drum** by cutting and stretching it over the top of a tin can.
- 10 Cut pieces of cardboard to make a **book mark or picture frame**. Decorate.
- 11 Make a **rain stick** from a paper towel or wrapping paper roll using unpopped popcorn or dried beans for the inside. Secure ends and shake.
- 12 Reuse an old shower curtain as a **drop cloth**.
- 13 Collect carpet samples to make a **personal floor seat** for a reading corner.
- 14 Transform **worn-out t-shirts** into cleaning rags, smocks for painting or reusable napkins.
- 15 Create **sun prints** using odd pieces of used construction paper. Put objects on the paper, leave in the sun for a day and remove objects.
- 16 Cover baby food jars with colored tissue paper (use glue) to make **tea light candles**.
- 17 Freeze water in a plastic bottle to make an **ice pack** for your lunch box or to enhance a cooler of iced beverages.
- 18 Use scraps of material to **make a pillow or small blanket**. Use lots of colors and textures.
- 19 Save old birthday and holiday cards to redesign **new cards** and **name tags**. Add photos, stickers and other decorations.
- 20 Reuse foam food trays to **mix paint or sort craft project items**.

## EXPLORE: ACTIVITIES & GAMES

- Go on a **scavenger hunt** in your home to find a disposable water bottle and other one-time-use items. Have a discussion about replacing them with durable, reusable options.
- Dig a **small hole** in your yard and bury a plastic cup, piece of paper and an apple core in the soil. Check on the items in a week - in a month. Record how they have changed.
- What products come in cans made from **bauxite ore** (hint: aluminum)? What are the benefits of recycling this material?
- Get a bucket of water and float **pieces of reused foil**. Add to the foil a toothpick, a leaf, a dried noodle, buttons of different sizes, two pieces of foil together - write down your observations.
- Find out what animals are considered **endangered species** and ways to protect them before they become extinct.
- Go to the Internet or library to learn how to make a **terrarium** in a two-liter plastic bottle.
- Write a **poem** using the words - earth, reuse, repurpose, recycle, community.
- Collect **metal lids** from jars. Use a magnet to pick up the lids. How many can be lifted at a time? Does a stronger magnet make any difference in your answer?
- Use a plastic water bottle to make an **"I Spy"** game by filling the bottle with small items and rice.

## OTHER RESOURCES:

[EcoKidsUSA.org](http://EcoKidsUSA.org)

[KidsFace.org](http://KidsFace.org)

[Soils4Kids.org](http://Soils4Kids.org)

[PBSKids.org/eekoworld](http://PBSKids.org/eekoworld)

[Wonder-Works.org](http://Wonder-Works.org)