

Re-Think: Waste as Art

Reuse, re-vision, and re-purpose items that are destined for the landfill as materials for art. Students are encouraged to explore second lives for paper, plastic, fabric, clothing and wire scrap.

Background for Teacher

MECCA, 449 Willamette St, Eugene, OR 97401 (541) 302-1810 has a teacher resource room. MECCA provides materials for free and will assist teachers in planning and sourcing materials for student art. Website: <http://www.materials-exchange.org/> Email: info@materials-exchange.org

What is a list of things that are thrown away at schools that could be collected in large numbers for reuse? (straws, paper, paper towel roll ends, toilet tube rolls, shredded paper, milk cartons, juice packs, cardboard boxes, one-sided paper, shiny juice bags, construction paper scraps....) Once students get the idea of turning waste into art, they can be challenged to revision these things as well.

Level

All grades. Additional adult help required with preparation of materials, hot glue gun and some cutting for lower elementary.

Learning Outcomes

Students will create art projects from recycled items or materials that have been diverted from the local landfill.

Materials

The projects need basic art class supplies (glue, tape, scissors, etc.) in addition to special materials. MECCA (Materials Exchange Center for Community Art) in Eugene developed the projects and is a source for free reusable materials.

Procedure

Recycled paper projects:

Paper maché, paper beads, map mirrors all require 48 hours drying time before finishing touches. These projects can take 2-3 class periods.

Wire Baskets:

The telephone wire must be stripped of plastic using an exacto knife by an adult. The basic basket spines should be assembled by an adult prior to class or have enough adults volunteers in class to assist each child. Weaving the baskets takes 2-3 classes.

Sticky Vinyl projects:

These projects take one class period and can readily be combined with other topics. For example, light switch covers conveying energy saving messages or a magnet art design that uses the magnets as a tool.

Glove puppets and Fleece hats:

These projects require sewing and adult assistance. Old, mismatched mittens can be used for the glove puppets to reduce the amount of sewing. These projects can take 2-4 class periods.

Content Standard

Content Area: Physical Science (for recycled paper projects, wire baskets, sticky vinyl art)

2-PS1 Matter and its Interactions

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

- 2-PS1-3. Make observations to construct an evidence-based account of how an object made of a small set of pieces can be disassembled and made into a new object.

Content Area: Engineering Design (for recycled paper projects, wire baskets)

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

- K-2-ETS1-2. Develop a simple sketch, drawing, or physical model to illustrate how the shape of an object helps it function as needed to solve a given problem.

Content Area : Math (for wire baskets)

Operations and Algebraic Thinking

Work with equal groups of objects to gain foundations for multiplication.

- 2.OA.3 Determine whether a group of objects (up to 20) has an odd or even number of members, e.g., by pairing objects or counting them by 2s; write an equation to express an even number as a sum of two equal addends.