



Homemade Clocks

Overview

Recycling is an easy and fun way to create positive impact on the world. Students often take an interest in recycling and finding ways to keep the environment clean. This project allows r students to use recycled objects to make a gift for someone else. Not only will they learn the importance of recycling, but they will also also brighten the day of someone else and teach him or her about reusing objects.

Suggested Age Group(s)

- Elementary and middle school; Grades 3-8

Content Standards and Curriculum Alignment

- This lesson aligns with science content for simple machines; lever, pulley, incline plane, wedge, wheel and axel, screw.

Objectives

- Participants will learn about what happens to garbage and ways to create less garbage by recycling.
- Participants will use recycled materials to make decorative clocks for seniors living in nursing homes.

Materials Needed

- Clock works (can be found at craft stores or saved from old clock parts)
- Recycled items such as buttons, magazines, cardboard, bottle caps
- Scissors
- Glue (depending on items used, you may need a stronger glue as well)
- Paint, stickers, construction paper, or various other materials
- *Where Does the Garbage Go?* by Paul Showers
- *Recycled Crafts Box* by Laura C. Martin (optional)
- *Ecoart!: Earth-Friendly Art and Craft Experiences* by Laurie Carlson. (optional)



Vocabulary

- Recycle: to use again.
- Reduce: to use less
- Reuse: to use more than once.

Lesson

- Begin by reading *Where Does the Garbage Go?* by Paul Showers to teach your students about what happens to waste, how objects are recycled, and what they can do to help.
- Discuss recycling habits with your class:
 - Does anyone recycle at home? What do you do?
 - What can be recycled? What can't be recycled?
 - Other than putting something in the recycling bin, can you think of other ways to recycle, or reuse, things?
 - Has anyone ever done a craft project with recycled materials? What did you make?
- As a class, look through books on recycling art projects, such as *Recycled Crafts Box* by Laura C. Martin and *Ecoart!: Earth-Friendly Art and Craft Experiences for 3-To 9-Year-Olds* by Laurie Carlson. These great books will help students think of creative uses for what would otherwise be seen as trash.
- Decorate a box in your classroom, or school, so that students can start collecting objects that will later be recycled into art projects. Ask students to bring in such things as cereal boxes, bottle caps, magazines, newspaper, buttons, beads, and other objects. Be sure that anything that once contained food is washed thoroughly!



- Once your class has a good collection of recycled objects, help students brainstorm about what they'd like to make. There are many options: clocks, picture frames, pencil holders, mosaics, and many other useful and
- decorative objects. Below you'll find instructions for making clocks out of inexpensive clockworks (found at craft stores) and recycled materials. Have fun!

Project

- After collecting the recycled materials and purchasing clockworks, or receiving them as a donation, your class can start to create their clocks.
- Begin by choosing a material for the face of the clock. Thick cardboard, cut in a circle, square, or other shape, is a good starting point. Or you may want to choose something even more creative, such as a paper plate, an old tile, a juice carton, or another object. Just be sure that the shaft of the clockworks is long enough to fit through the material you choose and that you will be able to punch or drill a hole in the object.
- Then, students can use the recycled materials to decorate the face of their clock by creating a collage on the face of the clock, covering it with construction paper, or painting it to make it more colorful. They can cut numbers from old magazines and newspapers, or use bottle caps or other materials in the place of numbers. Encourage your students to be creative!
- After the glue and/or paint dries, assemble the clocks, add a battery, and set the time! To take this earth friendly project even further, donate the clocks to a local nursing home or other organization. The clocks will be a cheerful addition to the residents' rooms!



Reflection

Once the project is done, gather students back together and hold a discussion. Some questions to discuss may include:

- Why is it important to reduce, reuse and recycle in your community?
- What changes in your behavior can you make to help the environment?
- What can you do to teach others about the importance of recycling?
- What can you do to remind yourself to recycle?
- How will these clocks brighten someone's day?

Additional Resources

- NYC Wastele\$\$
<http://www.nyc.gov/html/nycwasteless/html/home/home.shtml>
- Kids Recycle
<http://www.kidsrecycle.org/>

Sample Checklist

Before students arrive, it is important to establish:

- Where students will work
- Where everyone will sit for discussion (maybe put chairs in a circle or sit on a classroom rug)
- Where students will put their backpacks, coats, or other items they want out of the way if portions of the lesson can be held outside



Notes

- If you have volunteers and youth leaders, ask them to help with setup.

- It is important to establish how the project will run. Will students go directly to materials, or will they go to a place to sit and receive instructions?

- Ask volunteers and youth leaders to help younger students with their projects.

Recycling Renovation Survey*

1) Does your classroom recycle? _____ Yes _____ No

If so, what products? _____

2) Does your school or classroom reuse materials that might otherwise be thrown away? _____ Yes _____ No

If so, please describe: _____

3) Does your school or classroom reduce the amount of waste produced? _____ Yes _____ No

If so, please describe: _____

4) Does your school or classroom have a list of the recycling guidelines in your city?

_____ Yes _____ No



5) Based on the answers above, how environmentally friendly do you think your school or classroom is? (Circle one)

- very environmentally friendly
- somewhat environmentally friendly
- not environmentally friendly
-

6) List some areas where you think your school or classroom can improve its environmental friendliness: _____

*Note: This survey can be printed on recycled paper