

Wee Crafts



A Supplement to the Wee Recyclers Activity Guide



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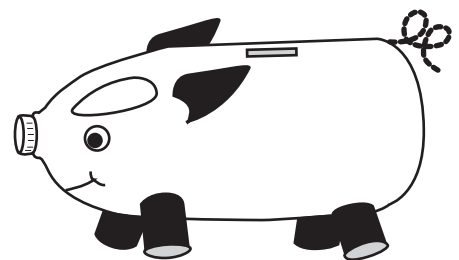
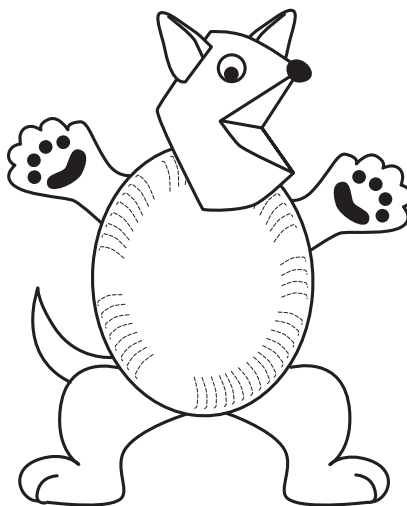
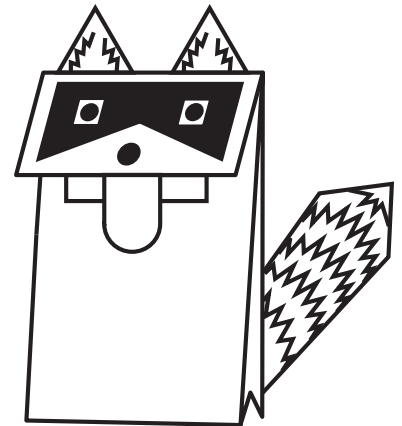
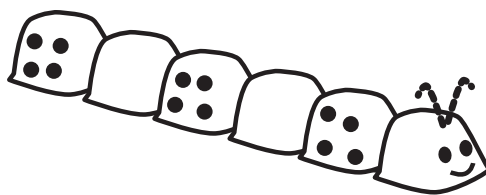
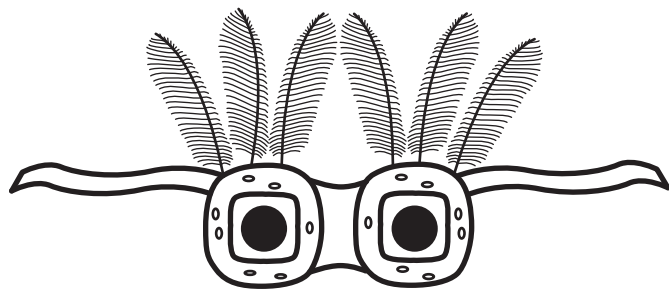
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Introduction

Think about the number of things you throw away or recycle every week – cardboard tubes, plastic containers, egg cartons, and more. Many of these materials can be reused for school craft projects. Teach your students the value and fun of reusing materials by creating new uses for recycled goods. Let a newspaper become a snowman, a milk jug become a new basket, a yogurt container become a doll. When you're making Wee Crafts, the possibilities are endless.

In this Wee Crafts guide, we provide some specific craft projects for you to create with your children. Brainstorm ideas together to come up with variations or completely new ideas – let your imagination run wild! As you work on a project, discuss the materials that are being used. What were toilet paper rolls or egg cartons used for before this project? How many different things can a paper towel tube be made into? Encourage children to use their imaginations and be creative.








Wee Reusables

It doesn't take much to get started on a Wee Crafts program. Many creative crafts can be made from items around the house that are normally thrown away or recycled. We have provided a Parent Letter at the end of the "Wee Recycling Center" chapter of the Wee Recyclers Activity Guide for you to use that asks for donations of a variety of reusable materials. Collect items throughout the year, sort them, and store in appropriate containers. In the art area of your classroom, have a surplus of reusable odds and ends for children to create monsters, robots, rockets and more. The following crafts call for many of these reusables.

Decorated Containers

Make a vase, candle holder or pen/pencil holder for someone special.

Materials:

-  containers (clean and empty glass bottles or jars, plastic detergent bottles cut at the "waist," paperboard juice cans, half gallon juice or milk carton cut in half)
-  glue
-  scissors
-  work area covered with newspaper
-  decorating materials: tissue paper scraps, dried seeds or beans, dry cereal, yarn or ribbon scraps, cloth scraps, different types of macaroni, etc.

Procedure:





1. Prior to class, select the containers for children to decorate. If working with plastic bottles, place them in hot water for a few minutes to make them easier to cut. Cut them at the "waist."
2. Children should select decorating materials and place these in their work area.
3. Have children spread glue on the surface of the container using their fingers (a small section should be done at a time).
4. Have children cover the glued area with their decorating materials.
5. Optional: When glue is dry, paint over the surface with shellac.

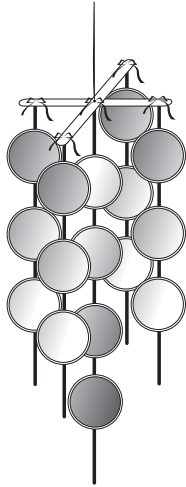


Wind Chime

Add a little music to your deck, garden or backyard!


Materials:

-  popsicle sticks
-  yarn
-  sixteen tin lids (from juice containers, canned goods, jars, etc.)
-  strong glue



Procedure:










1. Glue together two popsicle sticks in the shape of an X.
2. Cut four 12 inch pieces and one 18 inch piece of yarn.
3. Leaving about 2 inches at the top, glue three lids evenly spaced on each of the four 12 inch pieces of yarn. Use strong glue directly down the middle of each lid. Allow glue to dry and tie each piece to the end of a stick.
4. Again leaving about 2 inches at the top, glue four lids evenly spaced directly down the middle of each lid onto the 18 inch piece of yarn. The last lid should be located at the very bottom of the string. Allow glue to dry and tie to the middle of the sticks.
5. Add a 6 inch piece of yarn to the middle of the sticks for hanging.

 Note: Be sure there are no sharp edges on lids. Also, different sized lids will produce different tones.

Bunny Basket

A tisket, a tasket, make a bunny basket!

Materials:

-  clean, plastic one-gallon milk jug
-  6-inch pipe cleaners
-  12-inch pipe cleaners
-  two large cotton balls
-  permanent markers or crayons
-  glue
-  scissors or craft knife
-  shredded paper or packing material for "grass"
-  paper punch

3. Children can color the outside of the basket using crayons or permanent markers. Talk about the fact that real bunnies have two eyes, a nose and a mouth.
4. Help children weave 6 inch pipe cleaners through the slits by the nose to make whiskers.
5. Children can glue cotton balls on the bunny for its nose and for its puffy tail.
6. Fill the basket half-full with shredded paper or packing material.

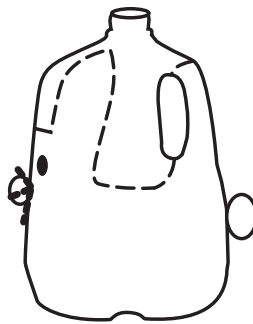


figure 1

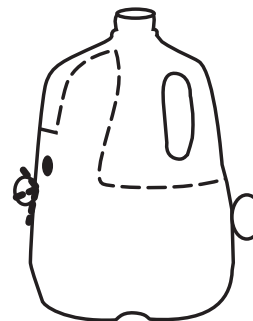
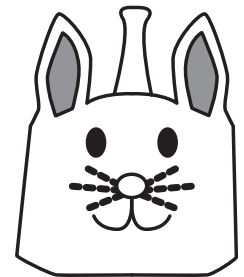
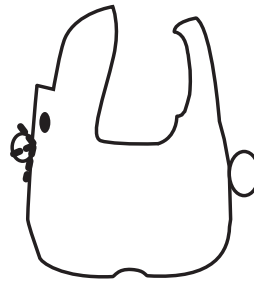
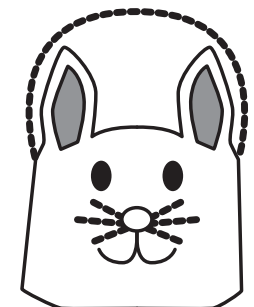
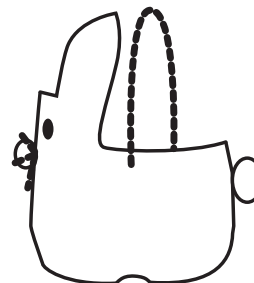


figure 2












Procedure:

1. The basket handle can be made in one of two ways. You may either retain the handle of the milk jug by cutting above it (see fig. 1), or cut off the milk jug handle, punch a hole on either side of the basket and attach pipe cleaners for a handle (see fig. 2). Draw the appropriate cutting line around the jug and cut out the basket.
2. Make two slits on either side of where the nose will be with a knife or the pointed end of a scissors.

Newspaper Snowperson

Build a snowperson out of reusable “snow.” Because this snow will not melt, you can plan a few days to complete your snowperson.

Materials:

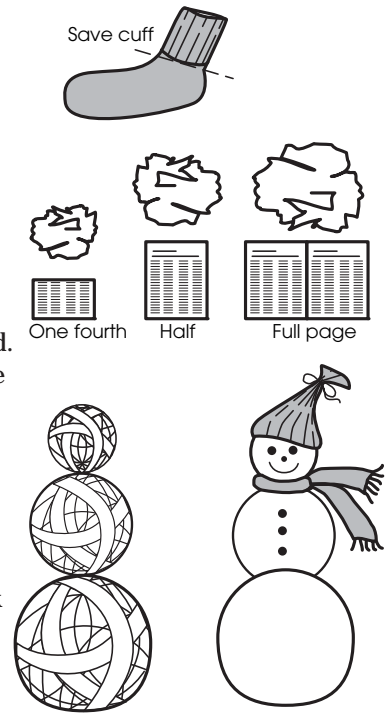
-  sheets of newspaper: full, half and one-fourth sheets
-  rolls of masking tape
-  yarn scraps
-  strips of fabric
-  thick, white paint (poster paint or indoor latex paint works best)
-  paint brushes
-  black marker
-  cuff cut from a child’s old sock (have children bring these from home)
-  art apron

Procedure:

1. Several days before conducting this activity, ask parents to donate old children’s socks. Cut the socks at the ankle, save the cuff for this project and save the rest for another project.
2. During the first session, give each child a set of newspaper sheets. Have them crumble each piece into a ball. Give children strips of masking tape to wrap around the three newspaper balls. The balls should be almost completely covered with tape. Flatten the bottom of the largest ball so it doesn’t

- roll. Help children stack the balls on top of one another and tape them in place.
3. During the second session, prepare a work area for children to paint their snowperson. Indoor latex paint works best. Ask for a can to be donated by a parent or a local paint dealer. If latex paint is not available, mix a thick batch of poster paint. Children can paint their snowperson so that no newspaper or tape shows through. Allow the snowpeople to dry completely before continuing.






4. During the last session, children can draw features on their snowperson using a black marker. Give each child a sock cuff. Pull the uncut end of the cuff onto the snowperson’s head. With a small piece of yarn, tie off the cut end of the cuff to complete the hat. Finally tie a small strip of fabric around the snowperson’s neck to make a scarf.



Snow Globes

Create snow globes for a treasure that every child can enjoy!

Materials:

-  glass jars with lids (thoroughly cleaned)
-  strong glue
-  baby oil
-  glitter
-  small plastic toys (animals, people, trees, etc.)



Procedure:




1. Using strong glue, attach a plastic toy to the inside of a jar lid. Allow glue to dry.
2. After glue is done drying, fill the jar with baby oil and add glitter.
3. Keeping the glass jar right side up, insert plastic toy into the baby oil inside the jar and tighten lid.
4. Turn sealed jar upside down so the lid is the surface side.



Recycled Paper Beads

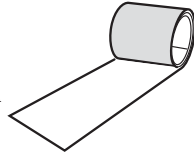
Use old magazines and catalogs to make paper beads and turn them into a necklace or bracelet.

Materials:

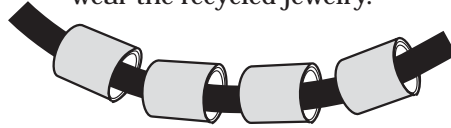
-  Brightly colored paper from magazines, gift wrap or catalogs
-  White glue or glue stick
-  String, yarn or fishing line

Procedure:

1. Cut paper into strips that are 1 inch wide and 4 inches long.








2. Spread glue over half of the paper strip.
3. Starting with the unglued end, roll up the paper. Be sure to leave a hole in the middle so string or yarn can go through it. For younger children, using a thin marker or crayon might make it easier to roll. Be sure to leave enough space to easily remove the paper bead.
4. Repeat making beads until there are enough for a bracelet or necklace.
5. String beads onto the string or yarn. Tie up and wear the recycled jewelry.



String-Along Reusables

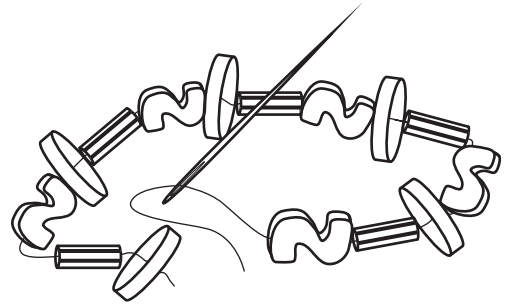
Make necklaces or garlands for holiday decoration.

Materials:

-  plastic bottle caps
-  recycled paper beads (see activity "Recycled Paper Beads")
-  drinking straws cut to various lengths
-  long pieces of colored string or yarn
-  large needles (2 inches long)

Procedure:

1. Before class, pound a hole in each of the plastic bottle caps with a hammer and nail.









2. Help children thread a needle.
3. Let children string the paper beads, bottle caps and straw pieces together on the colored string.

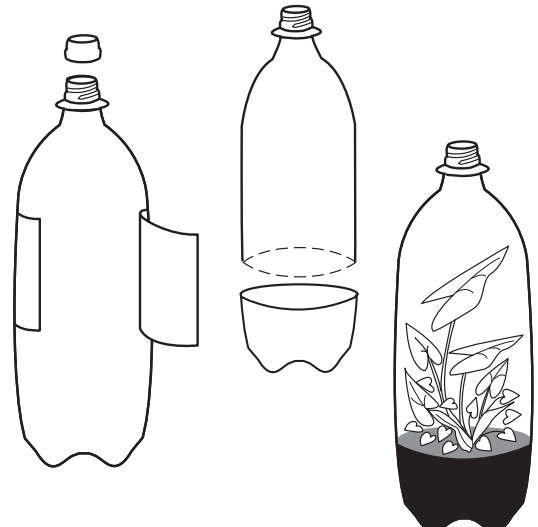
CAUTION: Small pieces may be swallowed by young children. Only do this activity with older children and under strict supervision.

Soda Bottle Greenhouses

This can be a group project in which children can work together to build a greenhouse and learn what plants need to grow.

Materials:

-  2-liter clear plastic soda bottle with the cap still on
-  small stones
-  potting soil
-  scissors
-  plant seeds or small plants that like lots of moisture
-  water



Procedure:

1. One bottle is needed for each greenhouse. To remove the label, fill the bottle one quarter full with hot tap water. Screw the cap back on firmly. Tip the bottle on its side so that the hot water warms the area where the label is attached to the bottle – this will soften the heat sensitive glue. Slowly peel the label from the bottle.
2. With a sharp scissors, cut around the bottom of the bottle (about 3 inches from bottom) to create a base.
3. Use the base of the bottle for the “pot.” Have your children put small stones in the bottom of the base to help with drainage. Next have them add enough potting soil to almost fill the base.
4. Help them plant their seeds or small plants. Let them pack the soil over the seeds or around the plants and add a little water.
5. Help each of them place the upper portion of the bottle on top of the base. Twist slightly to work the clear edge into the soil about one quarter inch. Place the small greenhouses on a window ledge where they can get some, but not too much, sunlight.
6. Caring for the greenhouse is easy. If the bottle cap remains screwed in place, the greenhouse should be self-watering. If too much condensation develops on the inside of the bottle wall, remove the cap for a few hours and then screw it back on. If the plants do not appear to have enough water, remove the cap and add a little water through the opening. Screw the cap back on tightly.
7. Check the greenhouse two times a week with your children. Make a chart to record the children’s observations of plant growth and moisture content.

Coin-Keeper Creatures

Reusing “trash” for crafts is like money in the bank.

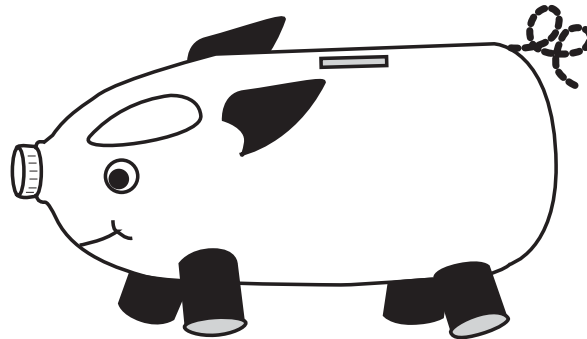
Materials:

- ♻ plastic 1-gallon bottles from bleach, juice or vinegar (they should have a screw-type cap)
- ♻ film canisters or plastic bottle
- ♻ caps
- ♻ pipe cleaners
- ♻ scraps of paper
- ♻ glue
- ♻ scissors
- ♻ markers

Procedure:

1. Clean bottles thoroughly.
2. Give each child a bottle. Tell your children to look at the bottle and imagine what creature the bottle looks like. Suggest laying the bottle on its side or turning it upside down. They may see a pig, a cow or maybe a monster. Once the child decides, help him/her to create the animal.
3. Children can cut features from construction paper and glue them onto the bottle, or features can be drawn on with a marker.

4. To make a curly tail, twist a pipe cleaner around a pencil and then slide it off. With the tip of a scissors poke a hole for the tail at the base of the bottle. Stick the pipe cleaner tail into the hole and secure it with a drop of glue.










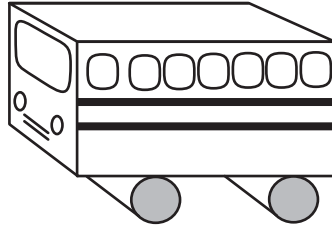
5. Cut a slot, large enough to fit a fifty cent piece in, on the upper portion of the bottle.
6. Glue film canisters or plastic bottle caps on the bottom of the bottle for legs.
7. Feed coins to your coinkeeper creature. If you want your coins back, just unscrew the cap and dump them out.

Wee-Mobile

All aboard the Wee-mobile!

Materials:

-  clean paperboard milk carton (quart or half gallon size) or rectangular tissue box
-  large paper bags cut open and flattened
-  toilet paper rolls
-  glue
-  scissors
-  tape
-  crayons or markers










Procedure:

1. Press in the milk carton spout and tape it flat.
2. Cut a paper bag along several of the seams to open it flat. Help each child wrap the milk carton or tissue box with the paper bag and tape it in place.
3. Let children design their Wee-mobile with crayons or markers. Glue toilet paper tubes to the bottom of the vehicle to make wheels.
5. Discuss with your children what the Wee-mobiles could be used for.

Bird Feeder

Reusing is for the birds.

Materials:

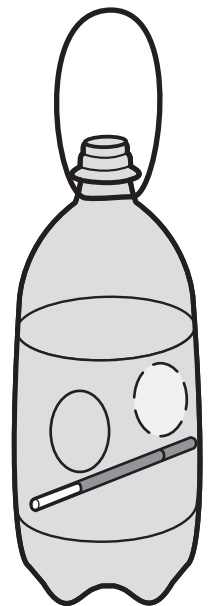
-  plastic 2-liter soda bottles
-  8 inch stick or dowels (1/4" diameter)
-  birdseed
-  craft knife
-  nail
-  hole punch
-  thin wire

Procedure:

1. Use a craft knife to cut two 3 inch holes across from each other near the base of a 2 liter bottle.
2. Make a small hole with a hole punch 1 inch below each larger hole.
3. Insert a stick or dowel through the two holes to make a perch.
4. Poke small holes in the bottom of the bottle with a nail to let rain water drain out.
5. Poke two holes across from each other near the top of the bottle. Thread the wire through the holes and twist the ends together to make a hanger.

6. Children can help fill the feeders with birdseed.
7. Hang a feeder in a tree near a classroom window. Make a chart to keep near the window to record how many birds come to dine and note which species are the most common. Look these species up in a bird book to learn more about their habits.
8. Send a copy of these directions home with each child so that they can make feeders with their families.







For more bird feeder variations using recyclables, visit: www.dnr.wi.gov/eek. Search: Backyard Bird Feeders



Classy Covers

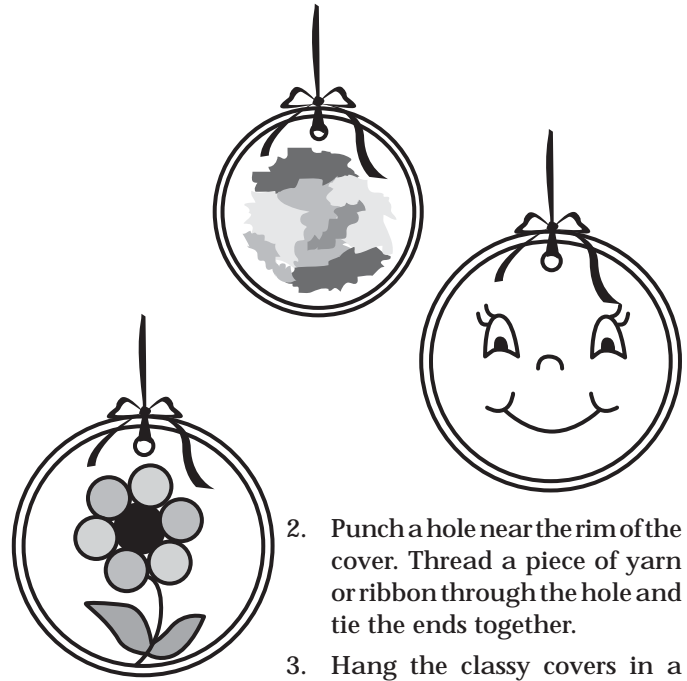
Create beautiful sun catchers and ornaments to display throughout the year.

Materials:

-  clear covers from yogurt cups, deli containers or pre-packaged lunch meats
-  scraps of colored tissue paper
-  permanent markers
-  white glue
-  hole punch
-  pieces of yarn or ribbon

Procedure:

1. Let your children tear colored tissue paper into small pieces and glue the pieces onto the clear plastic cover in a design or collage. Variation: Use permanent markers to draw a design onto the plastic surface.









2. Punch a hole near the rim of the cover. Thread a piece of yarn or ribbon through the hole and tie the ends together.
3. Hang the classy covers in a window or on a holiday tree.

Snow, Fur, Wool

Ever wonder what to do with all those polystyrene packing pieces? Turn them into “snow,” “fur” or “wool.”

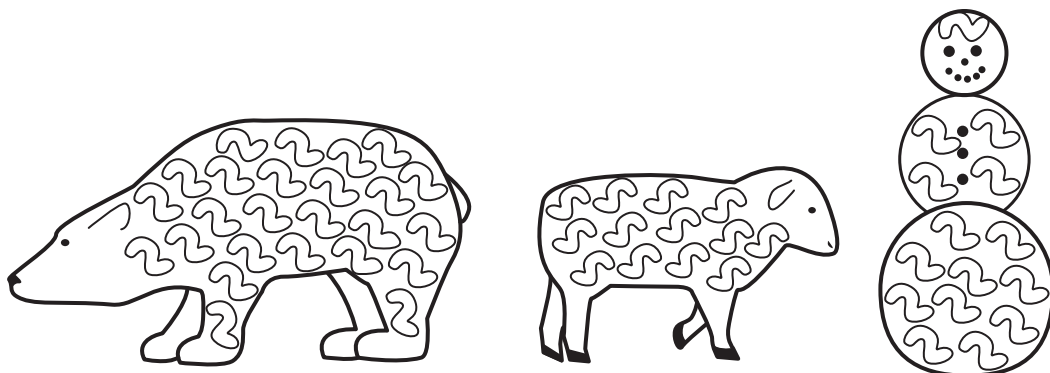
Materials:

-  scissors
-  large sheet of paper
-  glue
-  polystyrene packing pieces
-  markers
-  crayons

Procedure:

1. Draw the outline of an animal or object that is usually white on the large sheet of paper. Give this to your children.
2. Have your children color in eyes, nose, mouth, hooves, claws, etc., with markers. Let them glue packing pieces onto the paper to make white “snow,” “fur” or “wool.”

CAUTION: Small pieces may be swallowed by young children. Only do this activity with older children and under strict supervision.








Oatmeal Container Crafts

Turn them into drums, windsocks and more! The following four craft projects are easy, fast and fun using empty eighteen ounce oatmeal containers. Encourage your kids to be creative! A sturdy pair of scissors is needed to appropriately cut the canister for certain activities.

Note: Adults may have to cut canisters for young children ahead of time.

General Materials:

-  oatmeal container (18 oz.)
-  construction paper, used wrapping paper
-  glue
-  string or yarn
-  decorating materials (crayons, markers, stickers, glitter, ribbon, etc.)

Rattle Roller

Additional Materials:

-  dried beans, pasta or rice

Procedure:

1. Fill the round oatmeal container with a handful of dried beans, pasta or rice.
2. Tape or glue the lid shut.
3. Wrap and glue construction paper over the container and decorate.

Hands Free Drum

Procedure:



1. Punch a small hole on each end of the oatmeal canister.
2. Cut a piece of string or yarn and thread through the two holes. Allow enough string or yarn for the drum to hang down to the child's waist.
3. Tie the ends together.
4. Wrap and glue construction paper around the container and decorate with crayons, markers, glitter, stickers, etc.

Windsock

Additional Materials:

-  ribbon

Procedure:

1. Remove the lid from the oatmeal canister and save for another project.
2. Poke four holes in the bottom of the canister. Thread four pieces of long string and tie a knot at the end inside the canister. Tie the ends of the four pieces together outside of the canister.
3. Wrap and glue construction paper around the container and decorate with crayons, markers, glitter, stickers, etc.
4. Glue long ribbon streamers to the inside.



Critter Cabin

Additional Materials:

-  old pantyhose

Procedure:

1. Cut large rectangular windows on either side of the oatmeal canister.
2. "Furnish" the inside with leaves, grass, sticks, or whatever the bugs need as food and sprinkle in a few drops of water.
3. Cut the leg off of a pair of old pantyhose and slide it over the canister. The heel should be at the bottom.
4. Go on a hunt for Nature's Recyclers (see "In Search of Nature's Recyclers" in the Wee Recyclers Activity Guide) and place critters inside the cabin. Be sure and release the critters after an hour or so.

Egg Carton Creations – A Dozen Ideas

In most communities, eggs come in a variety of cartons. The two that work the best in craft activities are molded paper or polystyrene. Here are some helpful hints to keep in mind when preparing for an activity: A sturdy pair of scissors will be needed to cut egg cartons apart; a pair of curved manicure scissors is best for cutting small details. Molded paper cartons have a surface that is easy to color with crayons, markers or water-based paints. Polystyrene cartons have a surface into which designs can easily be etched with a simple tool – experiment with a fingernail, screw, pencil, fork or the end of a drinking straw. Any water-based coloring will be difficult to add to the waxy surface. Try mixing a few drops of detergent with water-based paints – this will allow the paint to stick to the surface. Crayons work to a limited extent. The following are directions for specific egg carton creations. We encourage you and your children to experiment and create different creatures. You may want to use this activity as an opportunity to teach about insects and flowers and their interesting features.

General Materials:

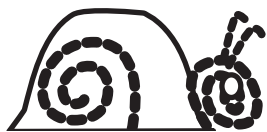
-  work area covered with newspaper
-  used egg cartons
-  scissors
-  glue
-  crayons and markers
-  paints and brushes
-  used twist ties
-  pipe cleaners
-  scraps of colored paper
-  pieces of ribbon or yarn
-  hole punch
-  film canisters, spools or small round pill bottles
-  decorations: straws, toothpicks, seeds, dry cereals, small buttons, fabric scraps, sequins, glitter, feathers.
-  art aprons

Note: Adults may have to cut and trim cartons for young children ahead of time.

Snail

Procedure:

1. Cut out and trim one egg section of a carton. Have children color and decorate the snail “shell.”
2. Take a twist tie and coil it. Fit the straight end of the twist tie up under the lower edge of the shell and secure it in place with a small piece of tape.
3. Cut a twist tie in half and fold that in half. Push one



end through the upper portion of the coiled twist tie and pull it until the fold is half way through. These are the snail’s antennae.

Mushroom

Procedure:

1. Cut out and trim one egg section of a carton for the “cap” of the mushroom. Let children color and decorate the cap.

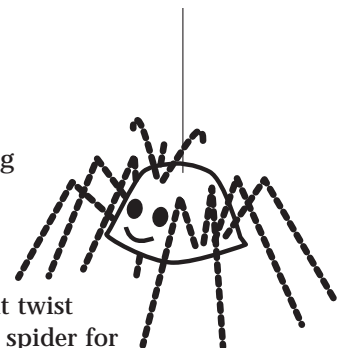


2. Take a film canister, spool or small round pill bottle and put glue around the rim.
3. Press the mushroom cap on top of the glued rim and hold it in place for a minute or so. Set the mushroom in a place where it won’t get bumped to dry.

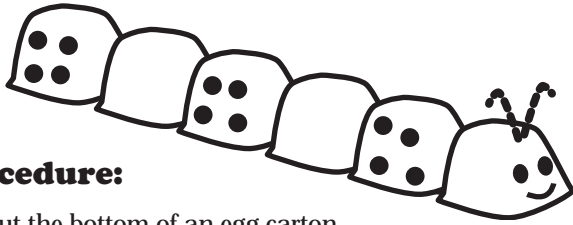
Spider

Procedure:

1. Cut out and trim one egg section of a carton.
2. Let children color and decorate the spider.
4. Help children poke eight twist ties into the body of the spider for legs. Bend each piece into an “L” shape.
5. To hang the spider from a “web,” thread a needle with thread or fishing line and poke the needle up through the middle of the spider from the bottom. Secure the line inside with a piece of tape.

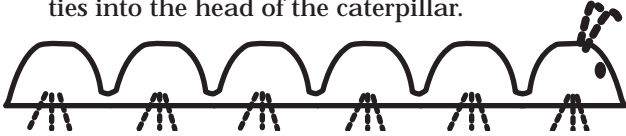


Caterpillar



Procedure:

1. Cut the bottom of an egg carton in half lengthwise to make a caterpillar with six humps. Trim rough edges.
2. Explain to children how to use a hole punch. Let them practice punching circles out of colored paper. They can use these circles for eyes or decoration.
3. Encourage children to decorate their caterpillar's humps with a variety of materials.
4. Help children make antennae by poking two twist ties into the head of the caterpillar.



Millipede

Procedure:

1. To make a millipede, follow the directions for making a caterpillar.
2. Add legs to the millipede by breaking 18 toothpicks in half and poking six pieces into each section. (Three legs on each side.)

Wee Bee

Procedure:

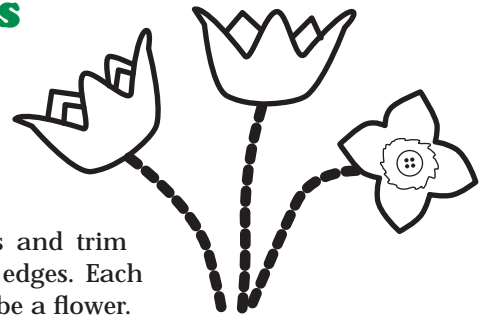
1. Cut out and trim a two-egg section of a carton.
2. Color the bee yellow. Black stripes can be drawn on with crayon or cut from black paper and glued on.
3. Help children cut out wings and glue them to the body of the bee.
4. Punch out two dots from black paper and glue them in place for eyes. Draw in a mouth.
5. Help children make antennae by poking two twist ties into the head of the bee.



Flowers

Procedure:

1. Cut an egg carton into 12 separate egg sections and trim around the edges. Each section will be a flower.
2. Give children one section to work on at a time. Let them cut several slits and small indentations around the edge to form the petals of the flower.
3. They may color the flower inside and out.
4. Help children make a stem. Poke a pipe cleaner up through the bottom center of the flower. Bend the top one quarter inch over and tape to keep it in place.
5. For the center of the flower, let children glue a ball of tissue paper, a bead or button in the middle of the flower.



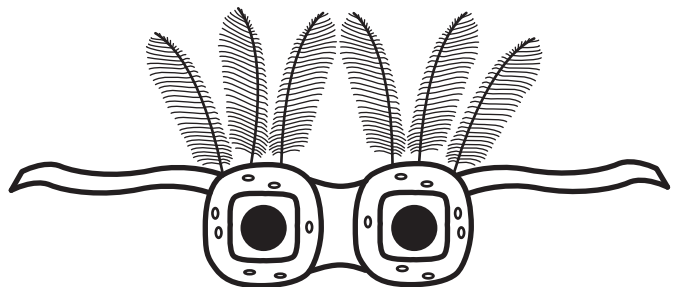
Double Flowers

To make fuller flowers, follow the same directions as above but stack two flower heads together and alternate the petals.

Egg Carton Eyes

Procedure:

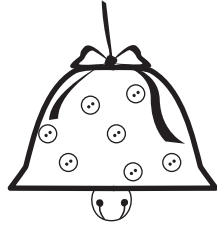
1. Cut out two individual egg sections. In each, cut out a circle in the bottom to make the eye holes.
2. Let children color and decorate the egg sections with sequins and feathers.
3. Cut a piece of ribbon long enough to tie around a child's head. Staple the egg sections to the ribbon so that they fit over the child's eyes.
4. Wrap the ribbon around the child's forehead and tie it in the back.



Holiday Bells

Additional Materials

-  small jingle bells



Procedure:





1. Cut out and trim one egg section of a carton.
2. Tie a small jingle bell to the end of a piece of yarn or ribbon.
3. About an inch up from the bell make a double knot in the yarn or ribbon.
4. Poke a hole in the bottom of the egg carton section using the pointed end of a scissors or a sharp pencil.

The hole should be big enough for the yarn or ribbon to thread through, but small enough to not allow the knot to pass through.

5. Thread the empty end of the yarn or ribbon through the hole in the egg carton and slide it down until the “bell” rests on the knot.
6. Let children decorate the outside of the bell with crayons, glitter and sequins.
7. Sing “Recycling is the Way” to the tune of “Jingle Bells.” (See “Sing for Recycling” in the Wee Recyclers Activity Guide.)

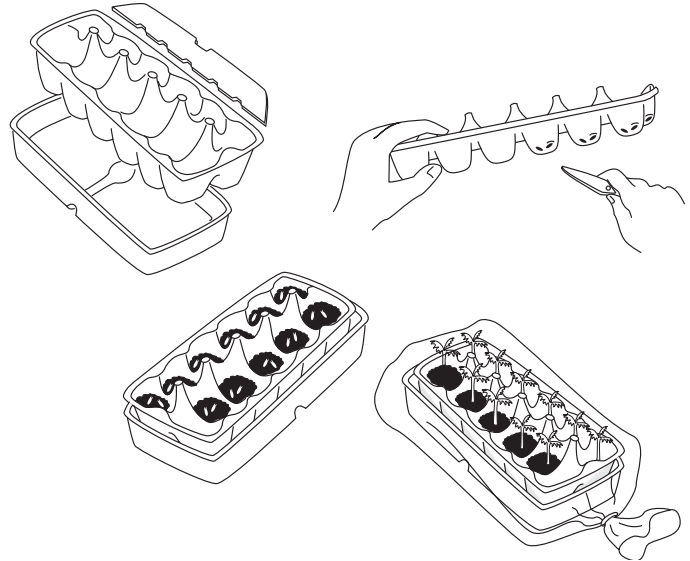
Seedling Starter

Additional Materials:

-  potting soil
-  seeds (rye grass or carrot seeds grow quickly)
-  water
-  plastic bag and twist tie






Procedure:

1. Cut an egg carton in half, using the top side for a tray to trap drainage, and the egg section side for potting soil and seeds.
2. Help children make two or three holes with a sharp pencil in the bottom of each egg section for drainage.
3. Let children fill each egg section with a small amount of potting soil. Set the egg section in the drainage tray.
4. Help children plant a few seeds in each section according to package directions and water the potting soil slightly.



5. Place the entire egg carton in a clear plastic bag and close it with a twist tie.
6. Set the cartons in a sunny window. Maintain moisture in the bag so seedlings do not dry out.
7. When plants are big enough, transplant them outside or to a bigger container.

Going Beyond:

-  Create a flower garden. Stick the stems of many egg carton flowers into a hard piece of “Styrofoam” that is colored green. Place egg carton creatures on the ground around the flowers.
-  For a Mother’s Day gift, make three to five egg carton flowers with stems. Arrange them in a decorated container. (See “Wee Reusables” for decorated container instructions.)
-  Use Styrofoam egg cartons to hold small amounts of different colored paints.
-  Egg cartons make great organizers of small things like beans, buttons, seeds, shells or stones.
-  See “Wee Printers” for printing with “Styrofoam.”

Wee Printers – Making their Mark in the World!

Print making is a wonderful way to learn shapes and colors. Experiment with different materials to print on and to print with. Let children discover the many shapes that different sides and angles of one object can make. Encourage children to experiment with different objects and colors. What happens when colors are mixed or shapes are printed on top of one another? Use the printed creations to make wall coverings, personalized cards and gift wrap.

Block Printing

Materials:

- paper (scrap paper, shelf paper, tissue paper, construction paper)
- paints or inks (poster paints, finger paints, acrylics, ink pads)
- paint brushes or old tooth brushes
- shallow containers for paint (margarine tubs, foil pans, meat packing trays)
- work area covered with newspaper
- painting aprons or old button-down shirts

Objects to print with:

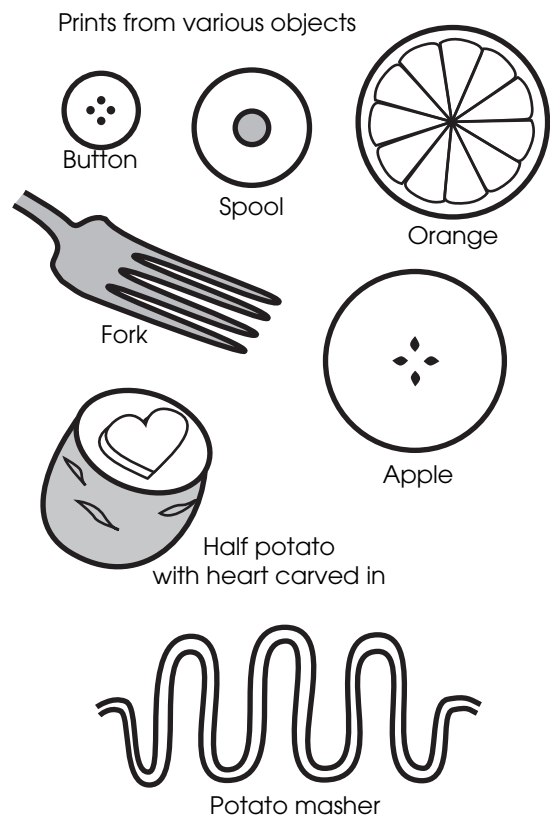
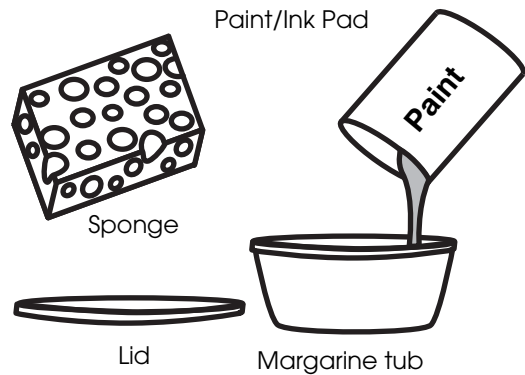
- | | | |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------|
| half onion | sponge | erasers |
| half potato | coins | fork |
| carrot | soda can | match box |
| celery | spools | corks |
| citrus fruit | nuts/bolts | fingers |
| apple | toothbrush | buttons |
| fern leaf | potato masher | screws |
| pine branch | toothpaste cap | corn cob |
| extract bottle | spice can | cookie cutters |
| wooden clothes pin | | |

To make your own “ink” pads:

1. Cut a piece of sponge to fit inside a small margarine tub or other small container with a lid.
2. Mix two parts poster paint with one part white glue. The glue makes the paint stick better to the printers and the paper.
3. Pour the mixture over the sponge and add a little extra in the container.






To print:

1. Ink objects by pressing them on the paint-filled sponge.
2. If the pad starts to dry out, add a little water to the container.
3. When you are done printing, cover the container with its lid and save until the next time you print.



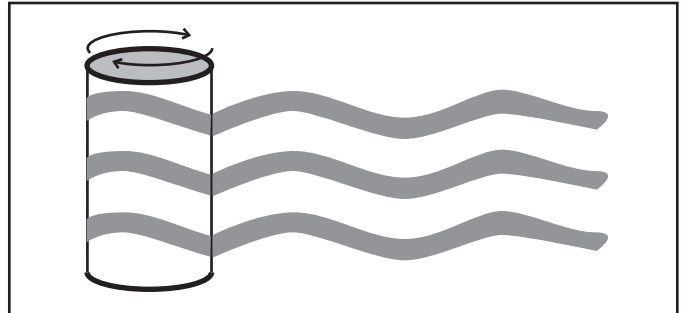
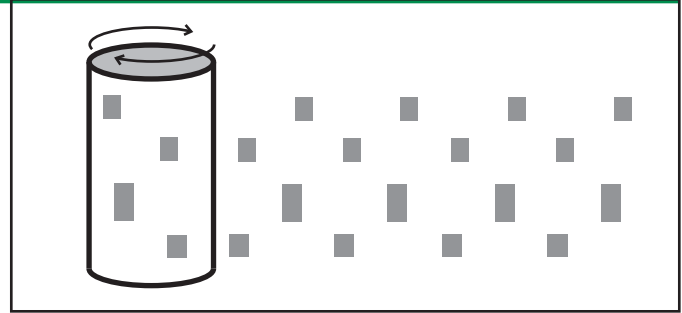
Roller Printing

Materials:

-  rollers (paperboard juice cans, tin cans with their labels on, paperboard tubes) string, fabric scraps, rubber bands, etc.
-  poster paint
-  glue
-  cookie sheet or meat packing trays
-  paper to print on







Procedure:

1. Pour poster paint onto a cookie sheet or meat packing tray to spread paint thin.
2. Let children glue scraps of string, material or rubber pieces onto the roller.
3. When glue is dry, have children roll the roller through a thin layer of paint and then across a piece of paper to make a repeating pattern.



Polystyrene Printing

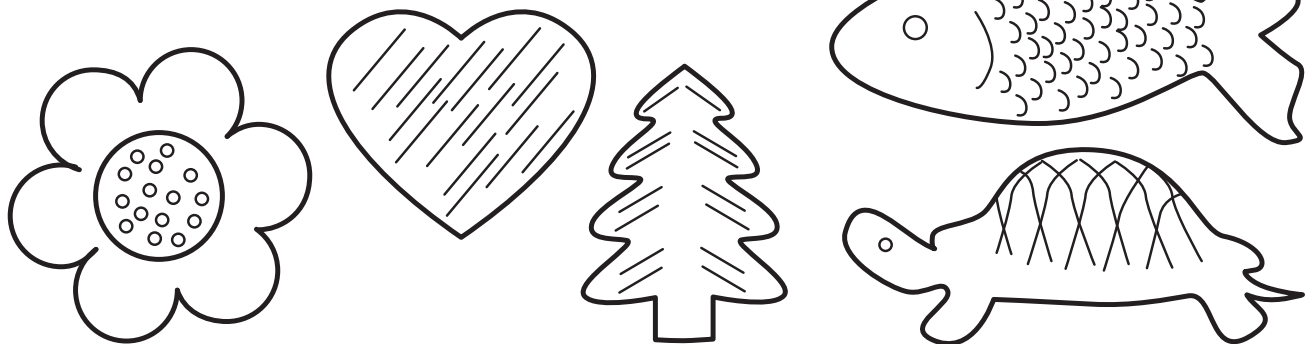
Materials:

-  polystyrene material (from egg-carton covers or meat packing trays)
-  scissors
-  pencil
-  ink pad
-  paper to print on
-  stencils or cookie cutters (optional)

Procedure:

1. Let children draw a simple shape with a pointed pencil on a flat piece of polystyrene. (If a more exact shape is desired, trace a stencil or cookie cutter onto the polystyrene surface.)

2. Help young children cut out the shape to make a stamp.
3. Children can etch a design into the stamp using a fingernail or pencil. Let them experiment making other designs using a fork, screw, bottle cap or the end of a straw.
4. Now the children are ready to print. Press the etched side of the stamp into the ink pad.
5. Place the inked side of the stamp down on paper, cover with a clean sheet of paper and press firmly.
6. This procedure can be repeated several times without having to re-ink the stamp each time.












Puppets

Puppetry can be an effective and entertaining means for conveying simple messages. Use some of the puppets featured here to teach various activities found in the Wee Recyclers Activity Guide. Encourage children to speak their own messages through puppets. The puppets are made with a variety of reusable materials. Discuss with your children the materials being used, what the items were before becoming puppet parts and what other items could be reused to make puppets.

Paper Bag Puppets

Materials:

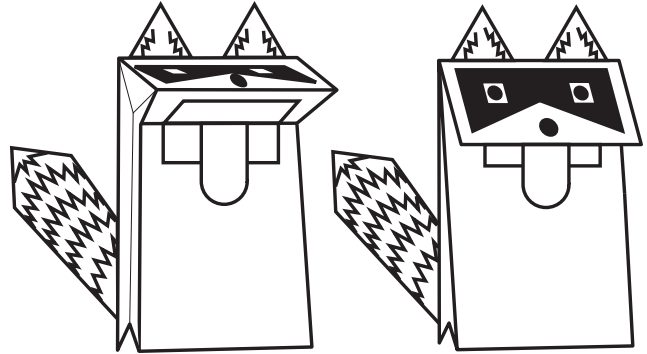
-  clean, used paper bags
-  scissors
-  glue
-  scraps of construction paper
-  pieces of yarn and ribbon
-  crayons or markers
-  buttons cut from old shirts
-  paperboard tubes from paper toweling or food wrap
-  patterns*

* Patterns for some of the puppets can be found in the Wee Recyclers Online Resources, <http://dnr.wi.gov/eek/teacher/weerecyclers.htm>. These patterns are for a standard lunch bag that will fit an adult's hand. Little children will still be able to manipulate the "mouth" of the standard lunch bag, but they will not be able to use the finger holes for arms. You may want to look for smaller bags that will fit your children's hands and reduce the size of the patterns.

Wee Reggie puppet

Procedure:

1. Find the patterns for Wee Reggie in the Wee Recyclers Resources, reproduce them and cut out.
2. Trace the patterns using crayons or markers.
3. Glue Reggie's head to the bottom of a small paper bag and glue the Wee Recycler logo to the front of the bag.
4. Insert your hand into the bag and mark where your "pinky" finger and thumb touch the side of the bag. Cut out two "arm" holes in the sides of the paper bag.
5. Your "pinky" finger and thumb will be Reggie's arms.



Rocky Raccoon*

Procedure:

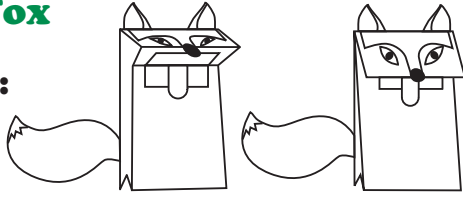
1. Find the patterns for Rocky Raccoon in the Wee Recyclers Online Resources <http://dnr.wi.gov/eek/teacher/weerecyclers.htm>.
2. Trace the patterns on pieces of colored construction paper and cut them out.
3. Glue the construction paper pieces in place on a small paper bag.
4. Use small dark buttons for the center of Rocky's eyes.
5. Use a brown and black crayon or marker to color the rings on Rocky's tail and the inside of his ears.
6. Insert your hand into the bag and mark where your "pinky" finger and thumb touch the side of the bag. Cut out two "arm" holes in the sides of the paper bag.
7. Your "pinky" finger and thumb will be Rocky's forepaws.

* Adapted from materials developed by Karen Fiedler, Waukesha County Solid Waste Supervisor.

Freddy Fox

Procedure:

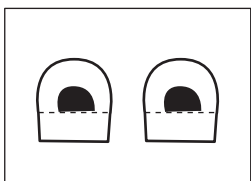
1. Find the patterns for Freddy Fox in the Wee Recyclers Online Resources <http://dnr.wi.gov/eek/teacher/weerecyclers.htm>.
2. Trace the patterns on pieces of colored construction paper and cut them out.
3. Glue the construction paper pieces in place on a small paper bag.
4. Using crayons, color the inside of Freddy's eyes yellow and shade the outside of his ears orange.
5. Insert your hand into the bag and mark where your "pinky" finger and thumb touch the side of the bag. Cut out two "arm" holes in the sides of the paper bag.
6. Your "pinky" finger and thumb will be Freddy's forepaws.



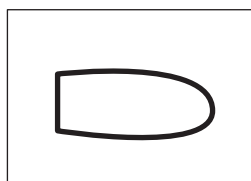
Frog

Procedure:

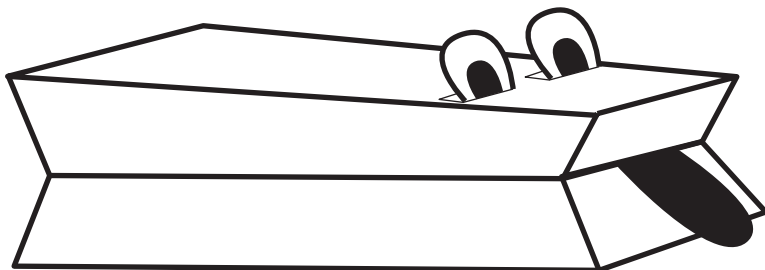
1. Take a small paper bag and fold the bottom of the bag in half. This is the frog's mouth.
2. Help children cut out a long tongue from construction paper and glue it to the bottom of the frog's mouth.
3. Cut out two half-circles from construction paper and make small folds along the straight edge to make tabs. Children can color in the pupil with a dark crayon and glue the eyes onto the bag so that they stand upright.



Green eyes
Color pupils black



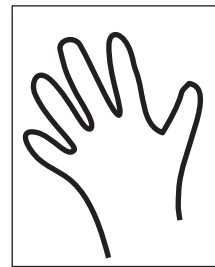
Red tongue



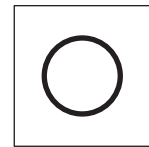
Recycle Reindeer

Procedure:

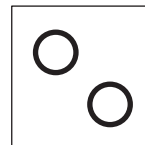
1. Help children trace around their hand on a folded paper bag (two layers of paper). Cut out the hand shapes for the reindeer's antlers.
2. Help children glue the antlers onto the top of a second paper bag.
3. Let children cut out a nose, two eyes and spots from scraps of construction paper and glue them to the reindeer's body.



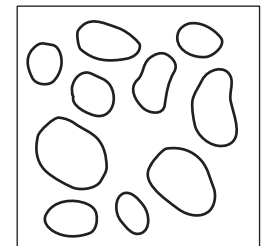
Brown Antlers



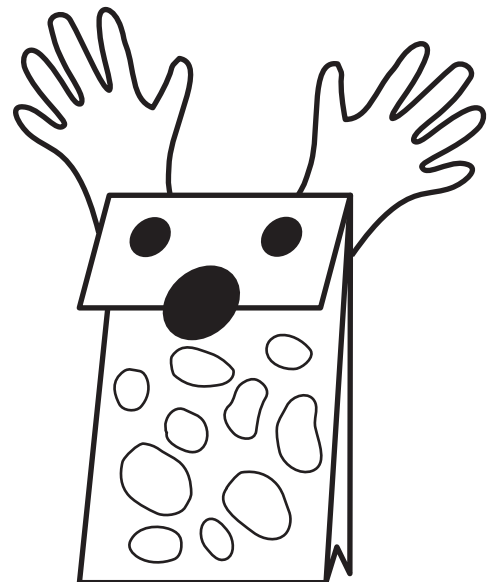
Red nose



Blue or black eyes



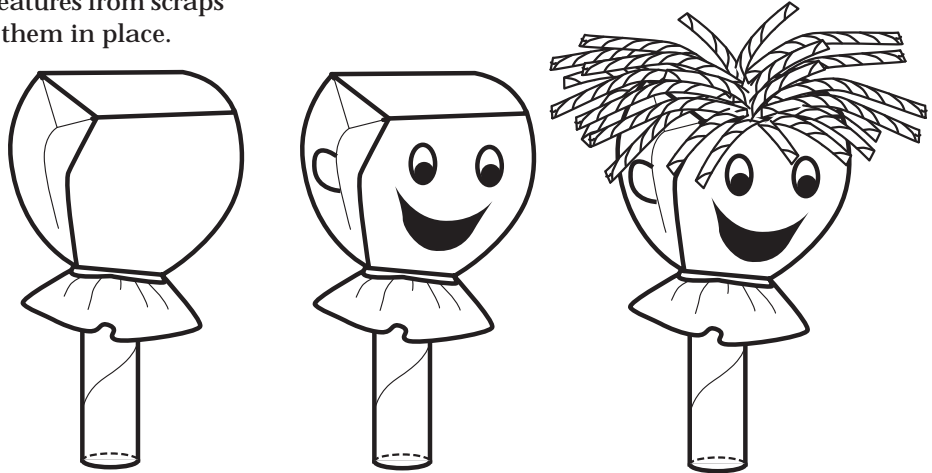
White Spots



Wee Recycler

Procedure:

1. Have your children draw a face on a small paper bag with crayons, or cut facial features from scraps of construction paper and glue them in place.
2. Open a small paper bag and let children stuff it tightly with wads of newspaper.
3. Insert a paperboard tube into the open end of the bag and tie the bag securely to the tube with a piece of string.
4. Help children cut yarn into short pieces and glue them to the bag for hair.
5. For a collar, cut the bottom of the bag into strips.

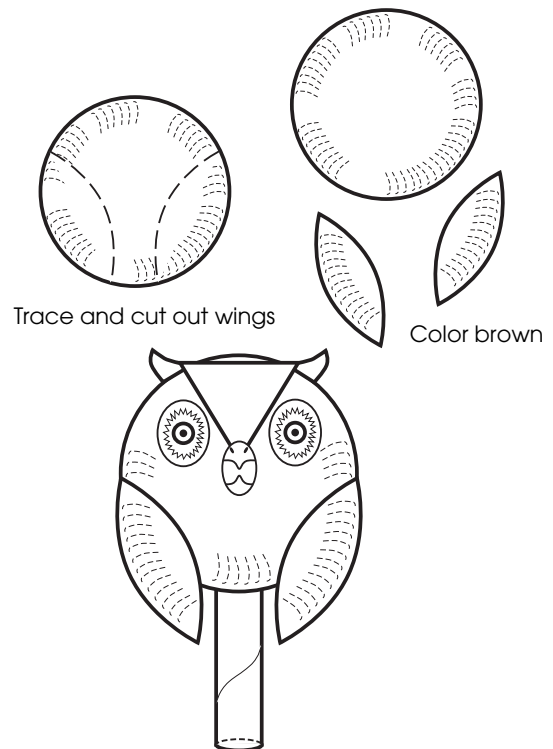


Paper Plate Puppets

Materials:

- unwanted paper plates
- scraps of construction paper
- pieces of yarn, ribbon, string
- buttons
- paperboard tubes
- scissors
- glue
- masking tape
- crayons
- patterns*

* Pattern for Olivia Owl found in the Wee Recyclers Online Resources <http://dnr.wi.gov/eek/teacher/weerecyclers.htm>.



Olivia Owl

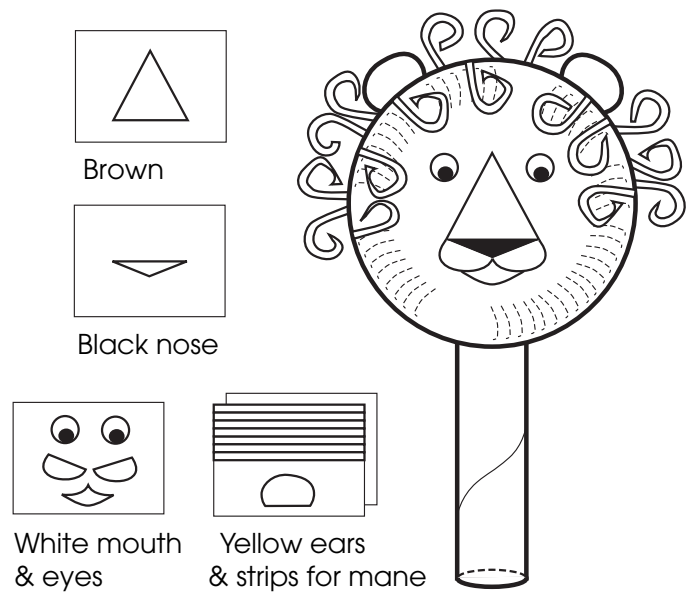
Procedure:

1. Two paper plates will be needed to make this puppet. Find the patterns for Olivia Owl in the Wee Recyclers Online Resources.
2. Trace all patterns (except the wings) onto scrap pieces of paper and color designated areas. Cut out the patterns.
3. Trace the wing pattern twice along the edge of a paper plate. Cut out the wings.
4. Color the wings and the second paper plate with brown and orange crayons.
5. Glue the construction paper pieces and wings in place on the whole paper plate.
6. Attach a paperboard tube to the back of the plate using masking tape.

Recycle Lion

Procedure:

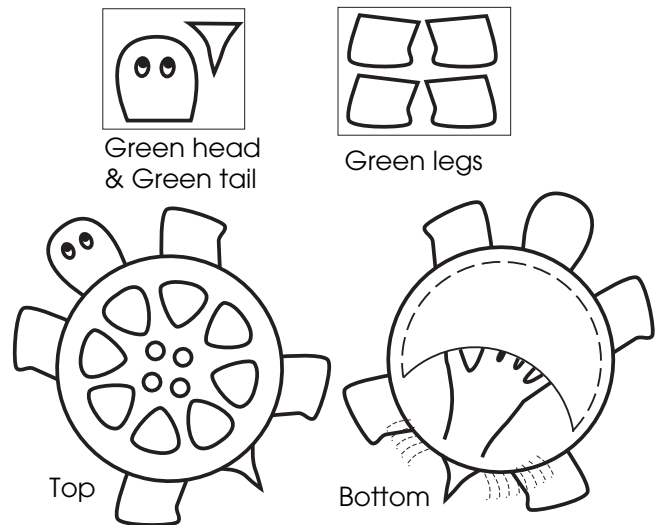
1. Let children color a paper plate yellow or gold.
2. Help children trace and cut out circles, half-circles and triangles from scraps of construction paper to make Recycle Lion's face. Help them glue the shapes onto the paper plate as shown in the picture.
3. To make Recycle Lion's mane, cut rectangular strips of yellow construction paper. Show children how to roll each strip around a pencil to make it curl. Have children glue the curled strips around the edge of the paper plate. Variations: Yarn or ribbon may also be used to make the mane.
4. Attach a paperboard tube to the back of the plate using masking tape.



Turtle

Procedure:

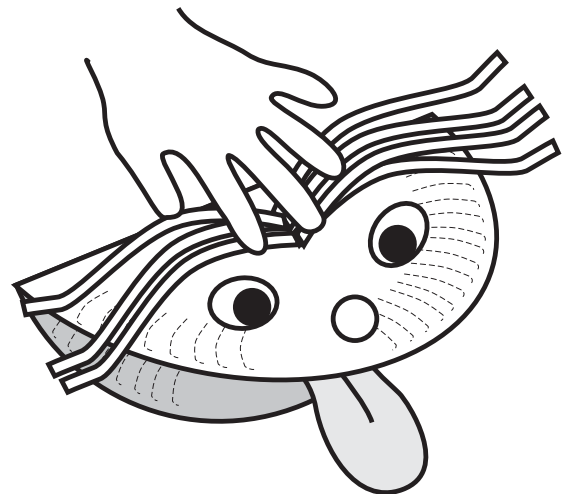
1. One and a half paper plates will be needed to make each turtle. On the back of one paper plate, let children draw a turtle shell design with green crayons.
2. Help children cut out a head, tail and legs for the turtle from green paper. Glue these pieces to the under edge of the shell.
4. Cut a second paper plate in half and staple or glue one half to the bottom of the turtle shell so that a pocket is formed in which to insert your hand.



Big Mouth

Procedure:

1. Help children fold a paper plate in half.
2. Have children cut out features from scraps of paper and glue them to the paper plate. Glue on pieces of yarn or ribbon for hair.
3. Children should place their thumb on the lower half of the plate, and their fingers on the top half. Open and close the hand to open and close the mouth.



Mitten or Sock Puppets

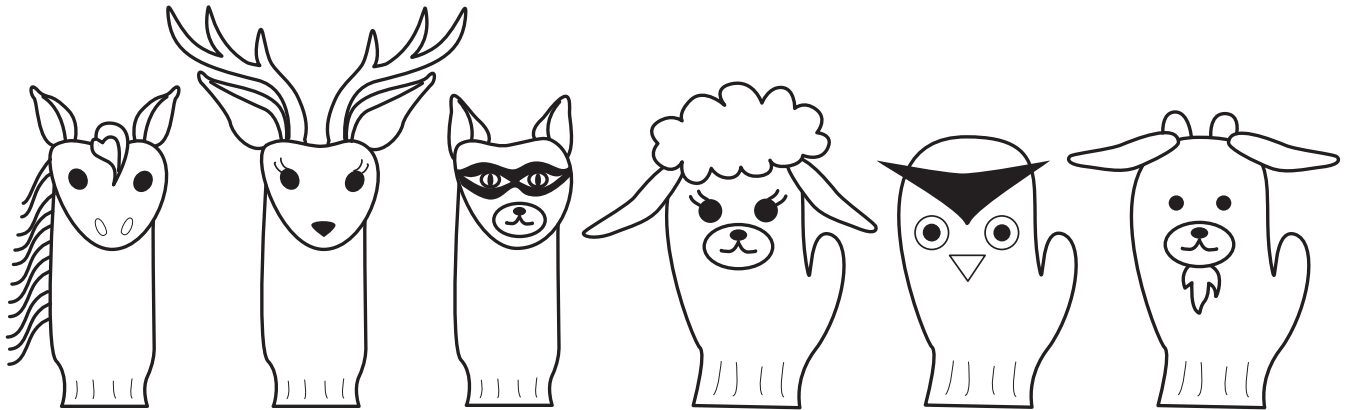
Materials:

-  worn-out socks or mittens
-  felt or material scraps
-  construction paper scraps
-  yarn scraps
-  scissors
-  glue
-  buttons
-  needle and thread










Procedure:

Using scraps of paper, felt, and yarn, glue or sew features onto socks or mittens to make a variety of puppets.



Toilet Paper Tube Puppets

Materials:

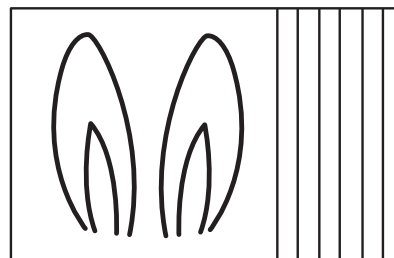
-  toilet paper tubes
-  scraps of construction paper
-  yarn scraps
-  scissors
-  glue
-  crayons or markers
-  pipe cleaners or drinking straws

3. Children can glue a cotton ball on the lower back edge of the tube for a tail.
4. Cut strips of paper for whiskers and glue them in place.
5. Insert fingers into the bottom of the tube to make the bunny hop.

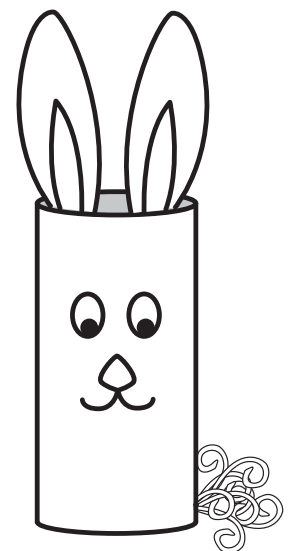
Recycle Bunny

Procedure:

1. Let children use a crayon or marker to draw a rabbit face near the top of the toilet paper tube. The rest of the bunny can also be colored.
2. Help children cut two long ears from construction paper and glue them to the inside upper edge of the tube.



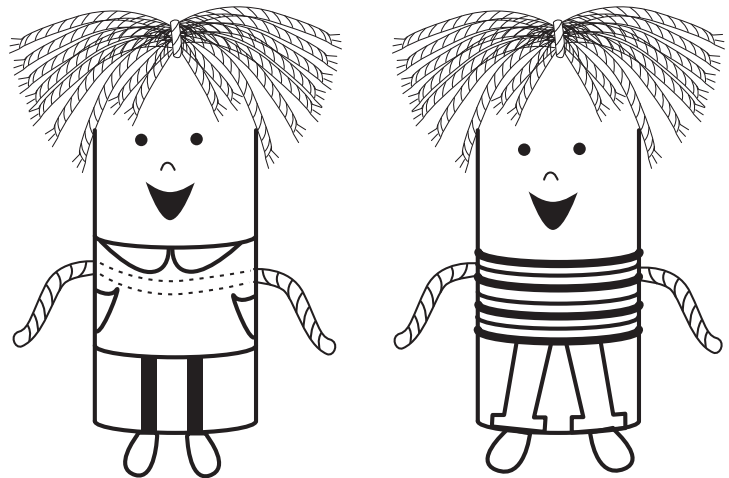
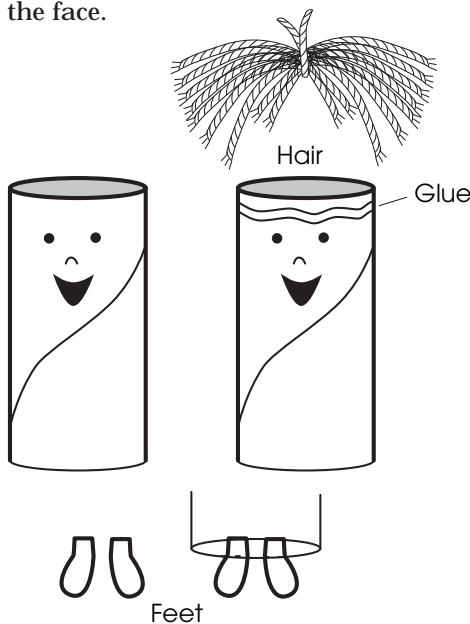
White paper for ears and strips for tail



Tube Tots




Procedure:

1. Let children draw a face near the top of the tube and color in the rest of the tube using crayons or markers.
2. Help children make hair. Cut 20 pieces of yarn about five inches long. Lay pieces of yarn together on a flat surface and tie them together in the middle with another piece of yarn. Children can spread glue around the upper edge of tube. Place the yarn bundle on top of the tube and spread the yarn out around the top of the tube. Press the yarn down so that it adheres to the glue. Trim long strands away from the face.
4. To make arms, poke two small holes on either side of the tube about half way down. Insert a 5-inch long pipe cleaner or straw into one hole and out the other. Let children bend ends to form hands.
5. Optional feet: Cut two strips of construction paper about one and one half inches long. Round off one end of each strip. Glue the straight end of the strips inside the tube and bend the rounded ends upwards.
6. To work puppets, insert fingers into bottom of tube.



Finger Puppets

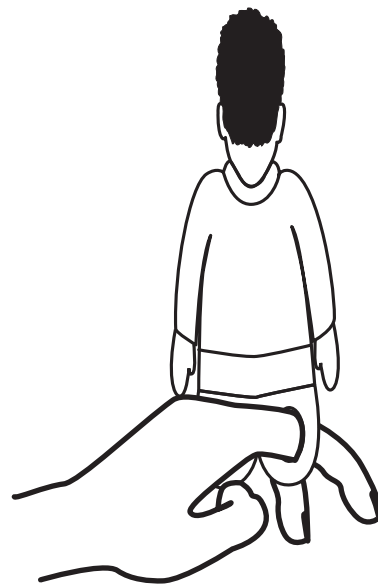
Materials:

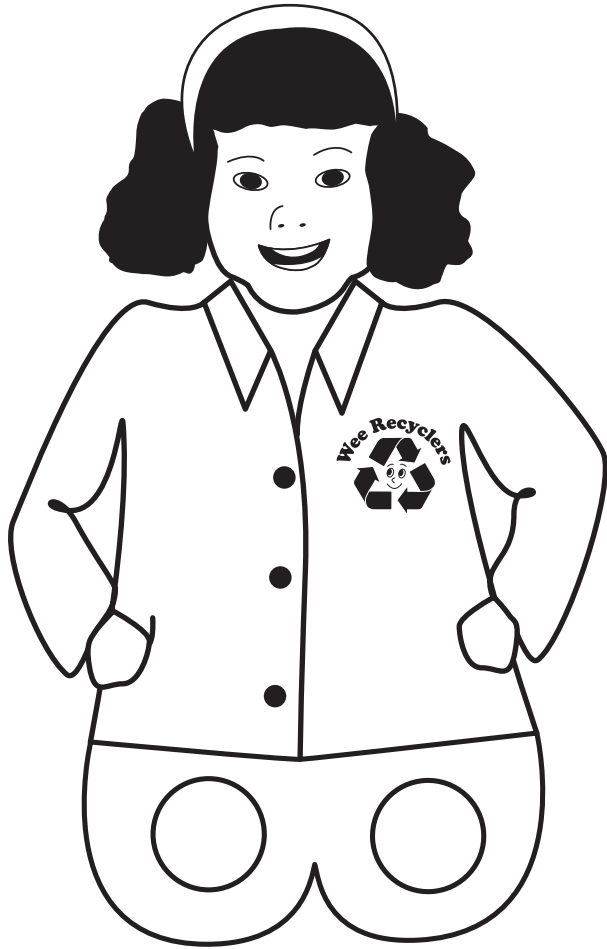
-  discarded cereal boxes or other paperboard
-  scissors (and a small manicure scissors)
-  crayons or markers

Wee Recycler

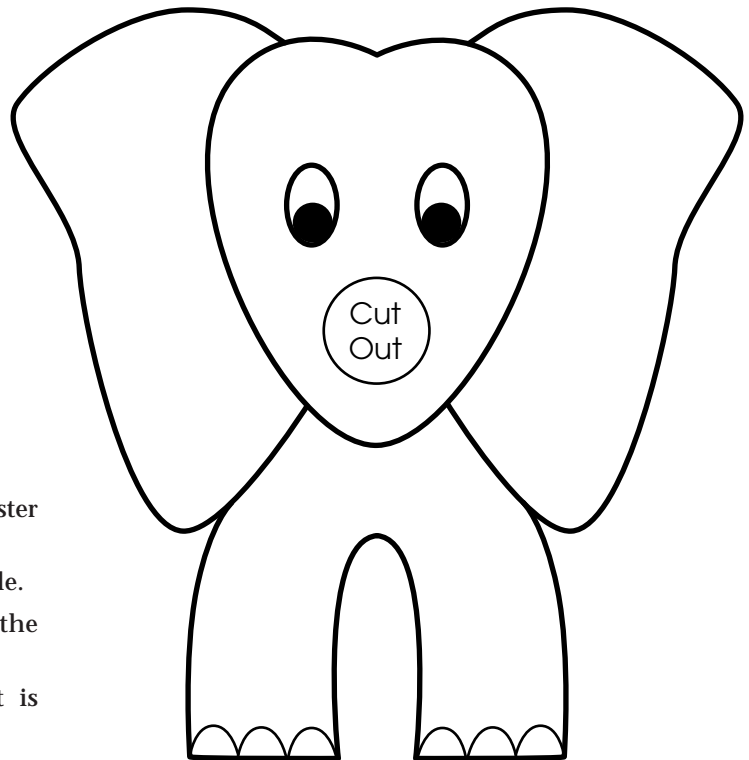
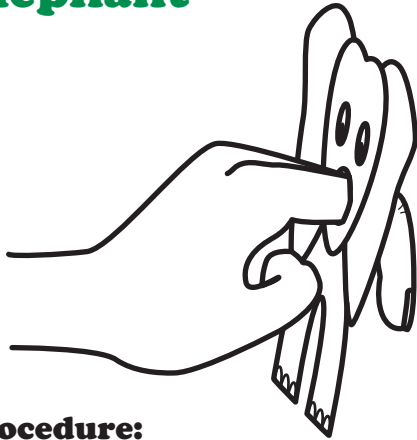
Procedure:

1. Trace the Wee Recycler pattern onto a piece of poster board and cut it out.
2. Use manicure scissors to cut out finger holes.
3. Use crayons or markers to color face, hair and clothes.
4. Fingers form legs when the puppet is operated.





Elephant








Procedure:

1. Trace the elephant pattern onto a piece of poster board and cut it out.
2. Use a manicure scissors to cut out the trunk hole.
3. Use crayons to draw a face and to color the elephant.
4. A finger forms the trunk when the puppet is operated.

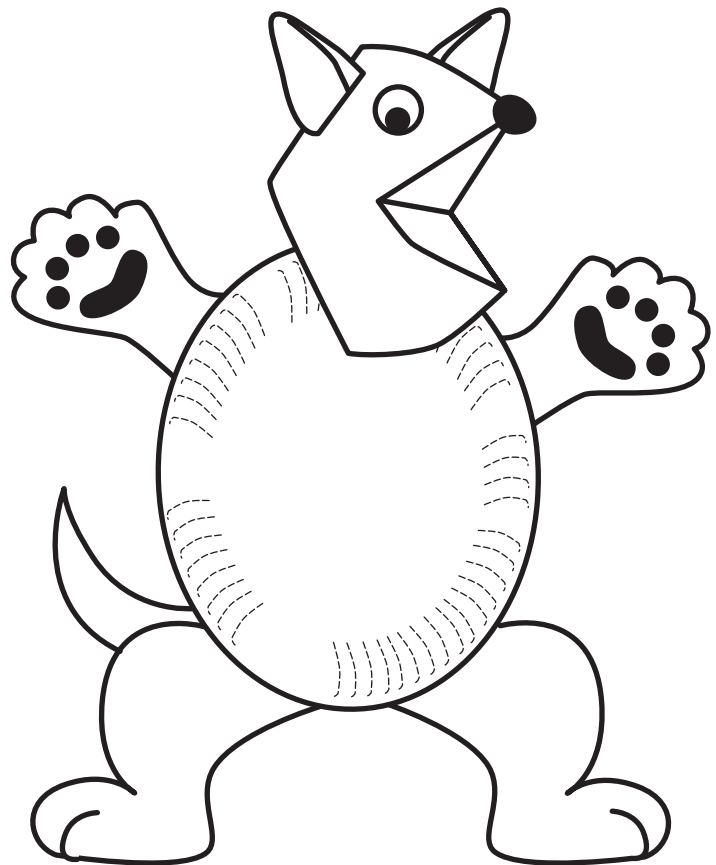
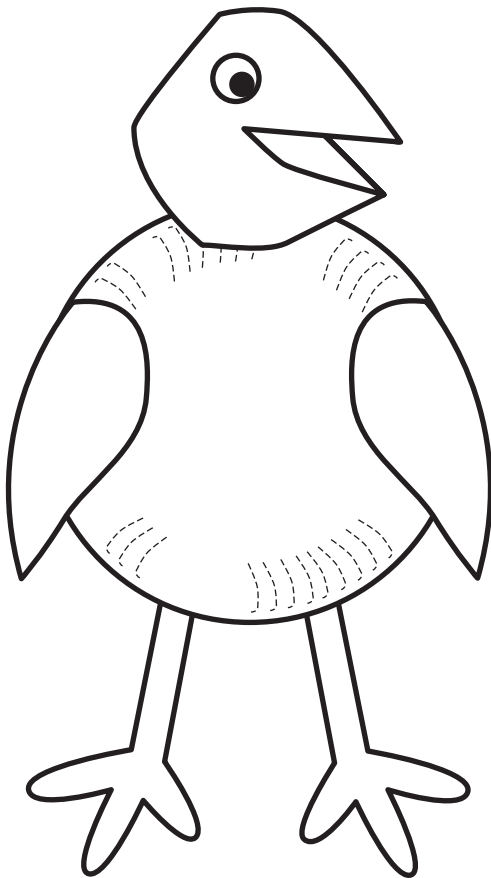
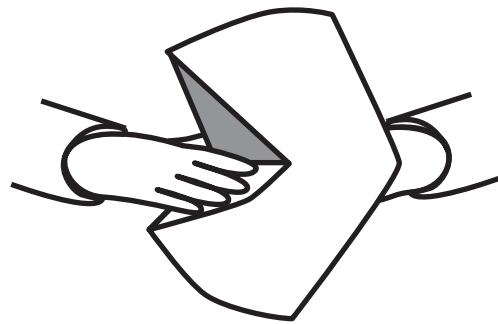
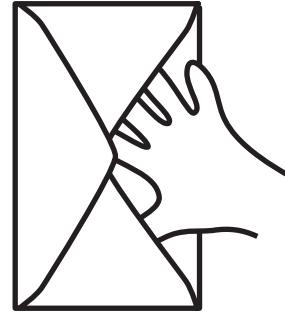
Envelope Puppets

Materials:

-  used envelopes (from junk mail)
-  crayons or markers
-  scraps of paper or paperboard
-  paper plates
-  pom-pom

Procedure:





1. To make the head, put flap of envelope inside and slide hand into corners of envelope.
2. To form mouth, "bite" your other hand with the envelope.
3. Let children draw a face onto the top of the envelope using crayons or markers.
4. Attach a paper plate to the bottom of the envelope for a body.
5. Help children cut out arms, legs, wings, ears or a tail from paper or paperboard. Glue them to the paper plate and envelope.



Our City








Children are naturally inquisitive, creative, good observers and full of colorful imaginations. This activity encourages the use of these skills. As you get ready to create the model city (town or neighborhood), take several days to observe a “real” city. If possible, take a walking tour, read stories or look at pictures of cities. Make picture charts of the different “parts” of a city and refer to these as the model is developed.

Materials:

-  large piece of sturdy cardboard or an old window shade for a base
-  art supplies as needed
-  large variety of cartons, boxes, paper tubes, packaging *
-  scraps of paper or any recyclable or reusable items*

*See listing of items in the Parent Letter at the end of the “Wee Recycling Center” in Wee Recyclers Activity Guide.

Procedure:

1. Designate a table or out-of-the-way area to build the model city. (Setting aside a large space may be a problem for many facilities. If this is the case, divide the children into groups to work on several smaller cities or neighborhoods.)
2. Plan to build your city over several days or sessions. During each session a certain component of the city can be built. Consider these components:
 -  Streets
 -  Houses
 -  Important Buildings
 -  People
 -  Vehicles
 -  Nature
 -  Other ideas
3. Brainstorm with your children; find out what they know about a city. Ask them, what is a city? What things are in a city? Where do we find a city? Write or draw their ideas on a chalkboard or large piece of paper. Next, take your children on a short walk around your neighborhood. Have them look for things not already on the list. When you return, add newly discovered things to the list. Show your children the base or “ground” on which their city will be built and explain that this is where they will create their own special city together.

Streets

Take a walk outside and look at the streets in the neighborhood. You may also want to show the children pictures of streets in magazines and books. Ask your children some of the following questions: Are the streets straight or winding? What color are they? What are they used for? For young children, outline the street(s) for them on the base. Everyone should participate in filling in the streets. Use paints, crayons or markers to add color. Or “paint” glue with your finger over the surface and cover with sand, dirt, coffee grounds or seeds. Try gluing in place scraps of brown paper bag or old newspapers.

Houses

Take a walk outside and look at the different houses in the neighborhood. Discuss features such as doors, windows, chimneys, etc. Ask them what their houses look like. Help children make a pretend home that they would like to live in. For the houses, use pint and half gallon sized milk cartons cut in half. Try using small paperboard boxes leftover from food packaging or small gift boxes for apartment buildings or condominiums. Houses do not have to have straight walls. Use margarine tubs or yogurt containers for futuristic homes. Cut out windows and doors or cover containers with paper and draw on windows doors, bricks, shutters, etc. Be creative with a roof covering and include a chimney made from a slice of paper tube. Add cotton smoke. Let the children decide where they would like to place their houses in the city.

Important Buildings

Talk about other places or buildings that children may be familiar with in their neighborhoods or city. They may mention schools, churches, libraries, gas stations, stores and factories. Take a walk around town to look for these buildings. Make a list of the buildings seen. Back in the classroom, have children choose the type of building they would like to build. As with the houses, supply children with a variety of different sized boxes and containers to build structures. Suggest gluing different containers together for bigger and taller buildings. Use paper tubes for smoke stacks or steeples and cellophane or tissue paper scraps for cut-out windows.

People

Introduce this session by talking about what different people look like. They may bring up hair color and length, skin color, size and age. What are some of the different parts of the body? Ask about the important people in their lives (parents, grandparents, siblings, teachers, etc.). Provide children with old magazines, catalogs and junk mail. Let them find a picture of “themselves” and another picture to represent someone special. Help the children cut out and glue the picture onto a thin piece of paperboard. When the glue is dry, cut the figures out again. Make a cut straight across the bottom of the figure. Using the scrap paperboard, make small triangular stands that are straight across the bottom. Cut a short slit in the center bottom of each figure and a slit in the center top of the stands. Fit the slits of the stand and figures together so that the bottoms of both are flush and the cut-out person will stand.

Vehicles

Discuss with your children the different types of vehicles they see on city streets. Take a walk outside. What vehicles do they see? Make a list of all the vehicles seen. Have children describe what the vehicles look like. Are they big or small? How many wheels do they have? What shape are the wheels? How big are trucks and buses? Supply children with a variety of small boxes, cartons and containers. Let them create their own vehicles for the city. Give them toilet paper tubes, spools, bottle caps and film canisters if they want to make wheels. Encourage them to use their imaginations. How might their vehicle be propelled? What is their vehicle used for? Let the children place their vehicle on the city streets and move them around.

Nature

Ask your children what other things live in the city – like plants and animals. Start a picture list of things that live and grow in the city on the chalkboard or large piece of paper. Take a walk outside to look for lawns, gardens and parks. Talk about trees, grass, flowers and bushes. What colors are they? Are they all the same? Also, look for animals that are found in the city. What kinds of animals are found here? Now let the children add some nature to their city. They can use pieces of sponge dipped in green paint to print a grassy surface, or they can dip cotton balls into green paint and glue them on the base as bushes. Paper tubes make good tree trunks. Children can rip circles from paper for tree foliage, color with crayons or paint, and glue them on the trunk. They can also glue cotton balls or popcorn dipped in green paint on the tree. Foliage can also be created from bunched up crepe paper or tissue paper

glued into place. Children may want to collect real leaves and glue them to the paper tubes. Flowers can be made from scraps of bright colored paper cut or ripped into tiny pieces. Some children may want to cut pictures of flowers from old magazines, wrapping paper or greeting cards. Glue pieces directly on the ground.



Animals can be made from cut out pictures. See the section for “People” for directions.

Other Ideas

Walk around the neighborhood again. What things do the children see that have not yet been included in their city? Keep a list of the things they mention. Back in the classroom ask them what additional things they would like to put in their city. Help them to create these things. Power lines can be made from used straws and scraps of string. Fire hydrants can be made from spools or film canisters. Use toothpicks or popsicle sticks to lay a railroad track. Try adding lakes or pools made from meat packing trays. Include a farm or zoo with animals made from cutouts. Children may want to show where the landfill or recycling center is. Encourage children to use their imaginations.

4. As your city grows and is completed, children will feel a sense of pride for contributing to its creation. Teachers should allow children to play with their cut-outs in the city when it is finished.

Going Beyond:

-  Older children may want to make a more futuristic city. After completion, discuss the probability of someday having real cities being built entirely from recyclable materials.
-  Instead of a city, create another setting like a playground, park or farm. For a farm, make houses and barns from boxes, fences from pieces of plastic berry baskets, silos from paper tubes. Cut-out figures of people and farm animals from magazines.

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