

The Art of Recycling

Recycling is not new. Many civilizations have reused objects. However, recycling is more important today because there is more pollution and fewer natural



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resources. Your family might recycle cans and bottles. Some people use these recycled material to make art!

Artists use old tires, pieces of metal, and cloth. Almost anything can be recycled into art. These materials might come from yard sales or swap meets. In addition, businesses might give used materials to artists.

Recycled art often says something about our world. For example, artists in New York City made a sculpture that looked like a giant white cloud. The sculpture, called “Head in the Clouds,” was more than 40 feet long and 15 feet high! People walked into the cloud sculpture and danced to live music. The artists used more than 53,000 recycled water bottles to make the cloud. That’s the number of water bottles that are thrown into the trash every hour in New York City! The artists wanted to show

how many water bottles ended up in the garbage.

Many art projects are shown at outdoor art and music festivals. Many cities even have festivals specifically for recycled art.

Museums also exhibit recycled art. A museum in Texas allowed visitors to add to the art on display. The project was called the “Recycle Reef.” The background looked like an ocean reef, and people added to the “reef” with the recycled materials provided. They even recycled the exhibit after the show ended.

Not all recycled art is big, though. Jewelry designers often make bracelets and necklaces from used objects.

Some make beads from the paper in old books. Others make bracelets from braided strips of potato chip bags. Some knit purses from plastic grocery bags.

Have you made something using paper towel tubes or water bottles? If so, you’ve made recycled art. What else can you reuse to design something new?



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Write all these words in the right places to complete this puzzle, which tells some things you learned about making art from recycled materials. You can reread the article before you begin, but don't look back at it while you are working. After you've completed the puzzle, read it to someone.



artists	bracelets	chip	jewelry	garbage
reuse	materials	purses	recycled	bottles

Today, art is made from many kinds of _____.

_____ use paint and clay to create art, but they also use _____ materials.

Sometimes, artists say something about our world when they use recycled materials. A giant white cloud in New York City, for example, was made from 53,000 water _____. The artists used these objects to show how many water bottles end up in the _____.

_____ designers also make necklaces and _____ from recycled materials. Bracelets can be made from braided potato _____ bags.

_____ can be knitted from plastic grocery bags. What kinds of recycled materials could you _____ to create art?

Comprehension Response Activities

FYI for Kids — Level 5



