



## TRASH TO TREASURE PROJECTS

Our hope with the *Trash to Treasure Projects* booklet is to change the way you look at throw-aways forever! Before beginning a craft project with a trip to the store to buy new supplies, start by looking in your trash or recycling containers. Each time you have something to discard, ask yourself, "What could this become?" The possibilities are endless. Use your imagination. Challenge yourself in a very unique way, to breathe new life into discarded objects, until something old becomes something new. Mother Earth will be very proud.

### CHIPBOARD (a.k.a. PAPERBOARD)

**MASKS** - Children of all ages can make their next mask from an empty **cereal box**. Trace and cut the desired shape and decorate with throwaways. Some ideas are: **dryer lint** glued on a gray box for a werewolf, gorilla, or kitten; smashed **egg shells** glued on a white box for a skeleton or mummy; a **milk cap** makes a great nose for a clown; Dracula's fangs can be made from **Styrofoam**; and ribbon-curved paper makes beautiful princess hair. The ideas are as endless as your imagination. **Flour and water paste** works great on these masks and it's a wasteless alternative to bottled glue.



**PUPPETS & GIFT BASKETS** - These can be made using the same technique as above; cut identical front and back from a **cereal box** and glue **lint** all over. For a puppet, staple the front and back together leaving an opening at the bottom for your hand. For a gift basket, staple the front and back together leaving an opening at the top to insert a small gift. A ribbon can be attached at the top to hang a May basket or a Christmas stocking.

**PUZZLES** - Use the fronts and backs of **two identical cereal boxes** to make a jigsaw puzzle. Glue one to the front of a **used mailing envelope** (to store pieces) and cut the other into puzzle pieces. The size and number of pieces will be determined by skill level of the children.

**PICTURE FRAMES** - Chipboard boxes with **cellophane windows**, for example pasta boxes, can become great picture frames. Choose a box with a window the right size for the school picture or snapshot you wish to frame. Cut the chipboard portion of the box to the desired size and shape. Next, cut a back piece the same size as the front. Staple the front and the back together, once the picture is securely taped inside. Cover the frame with papier mache artwork. Tear small pieces of brightly colored scrap paper and paste them to the front on the frame with flour and water paste. Attach a hanger or chipboard stand to the back. Use papier mache on the back of the frame, if desired.



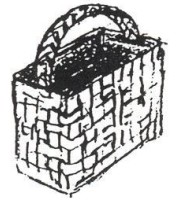
## OLD HOLIDAY AND OTHER GREETING CARDS

**LACING CARDS** - For early learners, glue the front picture of a **greeting card** onto the back of a **cereal box** with the plain side of the box facing out. Punch holes one inch apart all around the edge. Wrap the end of a **piece of yarn** with masking tape or use a **shoelace** to string through the holes.

**GIFT TAGS** - To make Christmas gift tags for the next year, save this year's **cards** and use pinking shears to cut out small pictures from them. From the backs of the cards, use scissors to cut out a piece of blank card twice the size of the picture plus 1/4" all around. Fold the white card in half. Lay the picture centered on the front of the white card. Punch two holes through both and string an **old piece of curling ribbon** through the holes. Tie a double knot. The ends of the ribbon can be used to tie onto the wrapped gift.

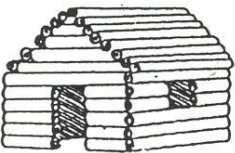
## PAPER GROCERY BAGS

**ARTISTIC BASKETS** - These can be woven from strips of **brown paper bags** glued to **cardboard boxes**. Use scissors to cut down one seam of the bag and remove the bottom section. Iron the bag smooth, then cut 1" long strips. (2" strips, tri-folded, make a more sophisticated project.) Cover the first half of the box vertically with the strips folding over one inch into the inside of the box and securing with clothespins. Cover the second half of the box by weaving strips over the existing strips on the bottom of the box before coming up the sides. Now weave horizontal strips up the sides of the box, tucking under the end pieces. Put a dab of glue under each folded tab inside the box and replace clothes pins until dry. Braid a basket handle from tri-folded strips and secure with glue and clothespins. Now glue a finishing strip inside the basket, concealing the tabs. Hold them in place with clothespins until dry. Baskets can be decorated with paints, markers, stamps, etc.



**CHECKERBOARDS** - These can be woven in the same manner. This time use 2" strips from **brown paper bags** and paint half of the strips with a watercolor paint. When dry, weave the two colored strips into a checkerboard pattern 10 blocks square. Glue the woven checkerboard onto a plain square cut from a paper bag. Hold the parts together with clip clothes pins until dry. Collect two different colored sets of matching **12 milk caps** to use as playing pieces. A smiley face sticker ☺ or drawing placed inside the milk caps can denote a King. A **small net produce bag** can be used to hold the playing pieces.

**LOG CABINS** - A great project to make when your class is studying Abraham Lincoln or early pioneers. Create the logs by tightly rolling 2" by 4" pieces of **newspaper or brown grocery bags** around pencils. Glue down the end of each rolled log. Glue the logs on top of each other to form walls and a roof. By cutting some logs smaller, you can make door and window openings. Allow to dry overnight and paint the newspaper cabins brown or gray. Grocery bag cabins are the perfect color already. NOTE: Younger students may need a foundation and framework to glue their logs onto, so use the cardboard from a cereal or cracker box for this.



**PUMPKINS** - A great project for autumn! Cut the bottom off a **brown paper sack**, so you have a tube. Gather bottom and secure with a rubber band, 1" from bottom. Turn bag inside out, carefully, and flatten bottom slightly. Stuff with **crumpled newspaper**, gather, twist the top into a "stem", and secure it with a rubber band. Spray or paint pumpkin lightly with orange.



## TOILET-PAPER TUBES

**NAPKIN RINGS** - You can make simple napkin rings for any holiday by cutting **tubes** in 1.5" wide rings. Cover with used **aluminum foil** and decorate with **rickrack, ribbon**, etc.

**SNAKE** - You can make a long snake by punching two holes in both edges of **eight toilet-paper tubes**. Tie the tubes together with **rubber bands** threaded through the holes. To make the head, glue one cup of a **paper egg carton** into one end of the snake and glue two small balls of **foil** as eyes. Poke a **forked pipe cleaner** in the end of the egg cup as the tongue.



## NEWSPAPER

**COMIC PINS** - You can make jewelry pins by cutting out your favorite **Sunday (colored) comic-strip character**. Glue onto a **piece of cardboard** and cut out around the comic. **Brush Elmer's Glue** in several layers over the entire comic, letting it dry between layers. Glue a **jewelry pin** to the back.



**PAINTING APRONS** - Make one of these by opening **one section of the newspaper** and stack it neatly. Cut out in an apron shape by cutting off a semicircle from two corners. Punch holes in each of the four top corners going through all the layers. Knot one end of **yarn or string** cut in 20" lengths and thread each through a hole in the apron for the apron ties. Each time an apron gets soiled, pull off a layer of newspaper.

**PAPER CHAINS** - Make colorful paper chains to decorate Christmas trees by cutting out 2" by 5" long strips from the **Sunday colored comics**. Fold the long way into the center in thirds. Make into a ring, glue ends together. Link each chain link together and glue.

## MAGAZINES OR GIFT WRAP

**PLANTER OR PENCIL HOLDER** - A fun planter can be made from **colored magazine pages** and a **round margarine tub**. Cut strips of the paper about 10" long and as wide as the tub is high. Roll the strips tightly around a pencil and glue to form paper rolls. Make as many rolls as needed to go around the tub, 36 or so. Glue the rolls onto the tub. Brush the tubes with a clear lacquer or varnish if desired to make it waterproof and easy to clean. A **gold cord saved from packages** can be tied around the planter for a finishing touch. Using the same methods, make a pencil holder from a **frozen orange juice can** or a **yogurt container**.



**NECKLACE** - To make a beautiful necklace of paper beads, choose several colored pages from a **magazine** (the longer and heavier the paper, the fatter the bead) or some colorful **used wrapping paper**. Along the top and bottom edges of the page, measure and mark off intervals of 3/4". Align a ruler with the marks and draw lines diagonally from mark to mark, then cut on the lines. Wrap the wide end of each triangle around a round toothpick, then roll the strip firmly, centering on the bead as the triangle narrows. Glue end down, pull the bead off the toothpick. String the beads on **nylon line or elastic thread**. (See pattern on left.)

## OLD BOOKS

**Book Safe** -To make a safe for valuables, use an **old, thick, hardcover, used book**. Cut a cereal box to the width of the book and long enough to wrap around the book. Wrap this around the pages you want to cut and tape the two ends of the box together behind the back cover. This will hold the pages still while you cut and provide a template for your cutout shape. Drill holes in the corners of your cutout shape (we recommend a simple rectangle). Using a craft blade or flat box cutter, cut out a rectangle a few pages at a time out of the center of the book. Use clear polyurethane to seal edges of the rectangular hole and the outside edges. You can store money, jewelry, or other valuables, in the hole and place on bookshelf.

## PAPERBOARD EGG CARTONS

**TREASURE OR JEWELRY BOX** - Glue pieces of **egg shell** all over the lid of an **egg carton** and when the glue is dry, paint the entire egg carton with several coats of **paint**. (Leftover latex paint works well.) The finished product will resemble a mosaic. The box makes a great treasure box or jewelry box for children; a collection box for seeds, rocks, or shells; or a gift box for small soaps, etc. An easier version of this project involves only creatively painting the egg cartons with the latex paint or tempera paints

**BIRTHDAY CROWNS** - Great birthday crowns can be made from **egg cartons**, by using a very sharp knife, cut the lip and lid from the egg carton. Now cut the carton three times, lengthwise. First, cut down the tallest row of "hills," and then down the "valleys" on each side. Staple together the two matching sets of crown halves. Crowns may be painted or simply given fingerprint jewels of **gem-colored paints**



**BELL ORNAMENTS** - To make triple bell ornaments, cut out three cups from an **egg carton**. Cover with used but **clean aluminum foil** inside and outside. Poke a hole in the tops of all three. Cut three varying lengths of **narrow ribbon** and tie them together at one end. Thread each ribbon through one egg cup and tie a **jingle bell** onto the end of each.

**HOLIDAY WREATH** - To make an attractive holiday wreath, cut an **egg carton** bottom into two long six-cup sections. Cut slits between cups to allow the sections to curve. Staple ends together to form a circle. Staple the circle onto cardboard that is cut into the same shape with outside of the carton facing up. **Paint** wreath green and decorate with a red bow and any other colorful decorations. You can cut a **toilet tube** in half, lengthwise, and paint or cover with red paper. Add a foil for the flame and attach this "candle" to the base of the wreath behind the bow.

## MILK CARTONS

**LACY CANDLES** - Reuse the **school-size milk cartons** and **old short candles or cast off crayons** to make beautiful lacy candles. Cut the gable-top from the carton and rinse. Tie a **cotton string** from a pencil and suspend the string to form a wick. Melt candles in a tin can placed in a pan of boiling water. Fill the milk carton with chipped ice being careful to keep the wick centered. Pour the colored hot wax over the **crushed ice** in the carton. Allow the candle to harden. Pour off water and peel off the carton and trim the wick.

**BIRD FEEDER** - Make a bird feeder by cutting two “windows” on opposite sides of a **milk carton**. Make a hole under each window and put a **twig** through both holes for perches. Attach a string to the top to hang from a tree branch. Fill the feeder with birdseed and hang outside.

**“BED & BREAKFAST”** - This one for the birds can be made from **school-sized milk containers**. Rinse the carton and fully open the top. Cut a 1” “teepee” door opening on two sides of the carton to release bird seed. Using a pencil, punch holes all along the edges of the carton. **Cut a one yard length from natural fiber materials such as cotton, string, yarn, or strips of fabric**. Triple fold these strips and using a **twist tie** as a needle, thread the bunch of string in and out of the pairs of holes. Continue until the carton is nearly covered with fluff. Now punch two holes at both the top and bottom of the carton. Punch corresponding holes in a **used but clean pie tin**. Thread a one yard piece of nylon thread down and back up through the feeder and pie tin. Tie the nylon string at the top as a hanger. Fill the bird feeder with bird seed and staple the top of the carton back together. Hang your feed on a thin branch where squirrels can’t reach it. The birds can now feed and help themselves to wonderful nesting materials.

## STEEL / TIN CANS AND ALUMINUM PIE PLATES

**BIRD FEEDER** - Poke a hole in the center of **two pie pans** and the bottom of a **large can**. By using a bottle opener, punch three or four holes in the bottom outer edges of the can. String a wire coat hanger through one inverted pie pan, then through the open can top into the hole of the can and again through the second pie pan. Bend over end of hanger under the bottom pie pan. Raise top of pan to fill can with birdseed. Lower pan and hang hanger from a tree.

**LUMINARIA** - You can make a set of luminaria candle holders from tin cans. Collect a set of **six or eight matching tin cans**. Fill them with water and freeze. Remove from the freezer and pound designs into the side of the cans with a hammer and nail while the ice is still frozen. Allow the ice to melt. Dry the cans. Paint can, if desired. Put a votive candle inside each can.

**STILTS** - Find **two matching soup or vegetable size steel cans**. Punch two holes a half inch from the bottom of the cans directly across from each other. Thread each end of a 6’ nylon string or a rope from the outside in through each hole. Put knots in the ends.



**JACK-O-LANTERN CAN** - Pound two holes on opposite sides near the open end of a **soup or vegetable can**. File off any sharp edges. Spray the outside of the can with orange Krylon paint. When dry, draw a jack-o-lantern face, using a permanent black marker. Fasten a handle (**raffia, coat hanger, spiral from a notebook**) through the holes.

## POLYSTYRENE FOAM TRAYS AND EGG CARTONS

**BRACELETS AND NECKLACES** - can be made from polystyrene foam beads. Simply punch beads from the **trays** using a paper punch, whose punch storing lid has been removed. Then, string the beads using a large-eyed needle threaded with about 16” of elastic thread that is doubled and knotted. When entire string is filled, tie ends together around the child’s wrist. Different colors can be used for making patterns. Even fairly young children can do this project without sticking themselves with the needle if they are shown how to push the needle down into the bead on the table.



**MODEL AIRPLANES** - Draw the shape desired for the body, wings and tail directly on the **tray**. Cut out the pieces and make slits in the body to slide in the wings and tail. Try various shapes and designs to find which is the most airworthy! Weighting the nose with paper clips will help it fly.

**BUNNY** - A mini-bunny can be made by cutting out two egg cups still attached to each other from a **polystyrene egg carton**. Glue a ball of cotton stuffing from a medicine bottle as the tail and draw a face and the whiskers on the other end. Cut slits where the ears go and cut two oval shapes for ears from the flat lid of the egg carton. Stick ears into slits.

**FLOWERS** – Save several **colored egg cartons**, to make decorate flowers. Cut out the individual cups from each color. Scallop the edges with scissors, and poke a tiny hole in the bottom of each cup. Stick a pipe cleaner in the hole and bend over the end inside the cup. Glue green paper leaves on the pipe cleaner, if desired.

## PLASTIC POP BOTTLES, #1 PET, POLYETHYLENE TEREPHTHALATE

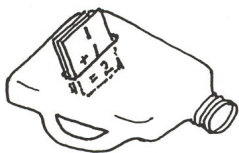
**CANDLEHOLDERS** - To make candleholders, cut off **two plastic soda bottles** about 6" down and trim the edges with a sharp scissors to be sure the base of each candle holder will be even. Decorate with **ribbon, rickrack, glitter, and holiday greenery**; add **candles**.

**CHRISTMAS BELL ORNAMENTS** - Cut an **individual-sized pop bottle** one inch below where the side begins to be straight up and down. Poke a hole in the cap. Tie a jingle bell onto the end of a piece of yarn or string and thread it through the hole in the cap, knot it and make a loop at the top for a hanger.

**POP BOTTLE RAINBOW FISH** – Remove label from bottle and cut off bottom. Screw cap on tightly. Holding the bottle cap-side down at an angle, drip paints inside bottle through the cut end, and swirl until desired effect is achieved. The paint will drip toward the cap. Holding the bottle cap-side down, flatten open end and staple shut 2-3" from the edge, leaving at least 1" open on either side. The end of the fish will remain partially open on each side. Using scissors, cut the end of the pop bottle into desired tail shape. Place bottle upright on cap and allow paints to dry. When the paint is dry, unscrew cap and discard. Or wash out cap, and using a permanent marker, color a circle in the center for the pupil of an eye. Glue pop bottle caps, googly eyes, packing peanuts or other creative reuse objects, one on each side of fish close to nose, for eyes. To hang, punch 2 holes on top of fish near the center. Thread fishing line through holes and tie.

## PLASTIC BOTTLES, #2 HDPE, HIGH-DENSITY POLYETHYLENE

**PIGGY BANK** – Encourage your kids to make their own bank, by cutting **pink tissue paper** into squares and gluing them all over a **plastic vinegar or bleach bottle with a handle**. Poke four holes in the bottom and stick **wine corks** in the holes for feet. Paint the jug cap pink and use a black marker to draw two nostrils and eyes on a bottle. Coil a pink pipe cleaner and stick it into the end of the jug as the pig's tail. Cut a slit in the top of the jug as a coin slot. Now you can save your pennies!



**PEEK-A-BOO BOTTLE** - An empty and clean **Murphy's oil soap** or **42 oz. liquid dishwashing detergent bottle** makes a great self checking game. Cut a 3" slit atop the bottle through which several 3" x 5" index cards may fit vertically. To make the flash cards, write the question (e.g.  $7 + 2$ ) on the top two-thirds of the card, and the answer (9) on the bottom third. Flash cards work well for many disciplines: foreign language, geography, etc.

## PLASTIC #4 LDPE, LOW-DENSITY POLYETHYLENE

**SNOW WRITING FUN** - Mustard bottles work great for winter snowing writing fun. Fill each with water and a couple of drops of **food coloring**. Kids can draw, write messages, or practice math on the snow when they squeeze the bottle.

## PLASTIC #6, RIGID POLYSTYRENE

**AQUARIUM** - Using **clear plastic deli containers with lids**, glue paper fish and sea creatures as well as green plants to look like an aquarium. Glue pebbles to the bottom.

## PLASTIC SODA STRAWS

The **red and white striped straws from fast food restaurants** make interesting jewelry or chains for decorating Christmas trees. Cut cleaned straws into various lengths and string onto elastic thread as necklaces or string in patterns.

## MARGARINE TUBS

**MANIPULATIVE GAME** - Poke 10 holes in a **tub lid** in the triangular shape of bowling pins. Glue a **circle of wallpaper** onto the lid and poke through that also. Collect **nine golf tees** and store them in the tub when not in use. (Directions to the game are as follows: jump one golf tee with another and pull out the jumped one. The object is to have only one tee left at the end of all possible jumps.)

**CANDY BOWL** - Paint the exterior of a **margarine tub**. (Acrylics work best when painting plastic.) When dry, cut 10 slits in the sides from rim to base. Weave colorful ribbon in and out of the strips and glue down ends.

## YOGURT & COTTAGE CHEESE CONTAINER RIMS

*Cut the rims, top and bottom, and save for different projects.*

**GHOST WINDSOCKS** - Cut white fabric from an **old T-shirt or sheet** into a 12" or larger square. Fold the fabric to form a triangle. Place the rim bottom inside the fabric triangle and snap the rim top over the top layer of fabric into the rim bottom. Use a fabric marker to draw a ghost face. Hang by a string outside to blow in the wind. (**White plastic bags** can be used in place of fabric.)

**POTPOURRI ORNAMENT** - Place **dried flower petals** inside a **piece of netting cut from a produce bag**. Snap the **rims of the container** over the netting with the flowers inside. Decorate the rims with **lace and ribbons**. Spray the potpourri with your favorite perfume. Hang in a window by a piece of thread. The warm sun shining through the glass will release the scent into the room.

**EARTH DAY WINDSOCK** - Cut strips of blue plastic from **blue newspaper bags**, 1" by 12". Poke a hole in each strip 2" from the top. Loop each strip over a container



rim, bringing the bottom of the strip through the punched hole. Now cut shapes of stars and fish (3") from **Styrofoam trays**. Cut two slits in each shape. Thread the blue strips through the stars and push them up around the rim. Now thread the strips through the fish. Tie a knot in the bottom of each strip and pull the fish down to the knot. Tie a final strip onto the rim for hanging. The windsock represents clean air (stars) and clean water (fish). *This can be done as a seasonal windsock using different color plastic bags & a variety of polystyrene colors and shapes.*

## PLASTIC LIDS

**STENCILS** - Make stencils to paint homemade wrapping paper or place mats by cutting various shapes out of **cottage cheese, margarine, or yogurt lids**. Dip **sponge** in **paint** and paint through stencil onto **paper grocery bags**.

**PRESCHOOL TOY** - Collect graduated sizes of **jar and container lids** to create "nesting lids" for a manipulative activity perfect for pre-school children.

**CONCENTRATION GAME** - Save **blue plastic caps from five-gallon water cooler jugs** and remove the labels. Find pairs of identical pictures from **magazine ads and coupon pages**. Cut out and paste into the underside of the caps. Use as a concentration memory game.

**CLASSROOM IDEAS** - Teachers can use **plastic lids** to represent science concepts such as a cell or the planets, or the math concept of less than/greater than, by cutting out a triangular slice to look like Pac-man.

**TAMBOURINE** - Pre-drill holes through **metal or plastic bottle caps** and around the perimeter of a **large plastic lid**. Attach pairs of caps with string or wire to the lid.

## PLASTIC NEWSPAPER, GROCERY AND BREAD BAGS

**PLACE MATS** - To make place mats, cut **plastic bags** into long 4" to 6" strips and glue end to end with tacky glue to make very long strips. Braid three long strips of different colors and glue ends. Wind braided plastic in a coil and sew together.

**POM-POMS** - Cut twenty to twenty-five **plastic newspaper bags** (variety of colors) into strips 1" by 24". Gather these together in the middle using another plastic bag. Bring the ends of this bag together and braid into a handle.

## MILK CAPS

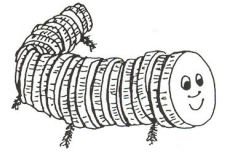
**MILK CAP DOLLS** - Punch two holes in each of 39 **plastic milk cap lids**. With a needle and waxed dental floss, thread the doll together using eight caps for each leg, seven caps for each arm, and nine caps for the body. Thread the floss down through the body, out each limb, back through each limb, and back through the body to make the threading very strong with no knots necessary. Now punch holes in two **larger plastic caps** (such as **five gallon water bottle caps**). You will need two holes in the bottom rim of each cap and one hole in the top of each cap. Thread all the strands coming from the top of the body through the two holes at the bottom of each head piece and out the single holes at the top of each head piece. Using all the strands, securely tie the doll together with several knots. Then braid the remaining floss. Now tie a



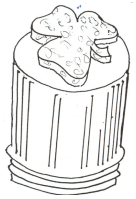
knotted loop with the braid so the doll can be hung safely in a baby's crib. Adhesive dots or shapes can be used to give the doll eyes and a smile.

(Note: punching holes is easiest with a hammer and a nail.)

**WORMS AND OTHER CREATURES** - To make worms or other creatures from **milk caps**, poke two holes with a nail and a hammer in each cap. String **28 to 30 caps** together threading **waxed dental floss** through the holes, turning the last cap in the opposite direction. Tie the ends. Use **pipe cleaners or twist ties** as feet and antennae, and draw a face on the reversed end cap.



### PRINTING STAMPS



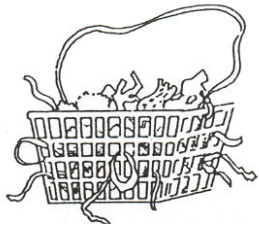
Cut a **sponge** into desired shape and using a glue gun, attach onto the flat side of a **milk cap**. Cut off the **handle of a used disposable razor** or use a **dowel rod**. Glue end of handle onto the inside of the lid. Now dip the sponge into paint or ink and stamp the pattern onto paper to make your own decorated wrapping paper. **Hair spray can caps or detergent bottle caps** can be used for this also, but they need no handle.

**CHAINS** - Make chains to decorate a Christmas tree by using the **plastic rings** that remain when milk caps are removed from jugs. Make a cut in every other ring, connect and tape the slits closed again.

**HALO** - String **many milk cap rings** together and tie the end of the string together.

## BERRY BASKETS

**SPRING BASKETS** - Cut out strips of various colored, plastic **newspaper protector bags** and weave them in and out of the rows of a **strawberry basket**. Pick three of the colors and braid them into a handle. Tie the ends of the handle to the basket and add Easter grass. Fill with treats and you have a colorful, decorated spring basket.



**MANY OTHER USES** - When sending a wrapped gift through the mail, overturn a basket over the bow to protect it in shipping. Baskets can also be used overturned as a "frog" in a planter or vase. Flower stems fit into the holes and keep them where desired when arranging. Hang a berry basket on the wall with a ball of string in it. With the string end hanging through the bottom, the length of string is easily cut when needed. Why not dry herbs in hanging berry baskets? Fill berry baskets with "soft" materials birds might use to build their nests, such as **yarn, fiberfill, cotton from aspirin**

**bottles, dryer lint, and strands of frayed burlap**. Pull a few strands through the basket mesh to help the birds get started with their nests. Tie string to the tops of the baskets and hang them in a tree. To make animal caves, cut a cave opening in one side of a berry basket. Glue basket upside down onto cardboard. Cut lightweight muslin large enough to drape over the basket and onto the cardboard. Place muslin and fabric stiffener into an old plastic bag, squeezing the bag to work the stiffener into the fabric. Drape over the basket, leaving the entrance open and paint when dry.

## BUILDING SHELTERS OR HOMES

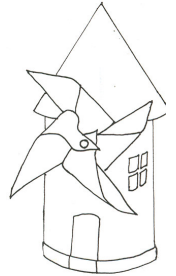
*If your class is studying various cultures in social studies and you'd like to illustrate the different shelters used, we think we have some helpful ideas for you.*

**STYROFOAM IGLOOS** - Cut a small doorway in an inverted **margarine tub**. Children glue Styrofoam **packing peanuts** over the entire surface in staggered rows as the Eskimos do.

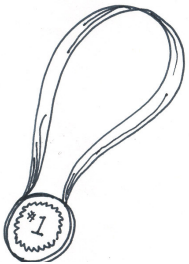
**GRASS HUTS** - Prepare **margarine tubs** as above, but glue **dried grass clippings** all over the inverted tub.

**TEEPEES** -Begin with **small frozen whipped topping or cottage cheese lids**, three to six **popsicle sticks** each, **masking tape**, and **paper lunch bags**. Place lids upside down and tape the sticks vertically along the edges of the lids. Lean all the sticks to the center and - with help - tape them together. Cut the lunch bags open so they lay flat. Decorate the outsides with crayon in native symbols and immerse bags in water. Wrap soaked bags around the teepee framework and allow to dry overnight.

**WINDMILL** - Paint a **round salt box** or cover it with paper. Draw in the door and windows. Cut out a five inch square and make a tiny "X" in the center of the square. Cut 2" slits starting from each corner toward the center. Bring one corner from each to the X and fasten all together with a brass fastener. Attach pinwheel to the salt box loosely enough to turn freely. For the pointed roof, cut a half circle eight inches in diameter out of a **grocery bag**. Curl around into a cone shape and tape or glue together. Lastly, tape the cone in place on top of the **salt box**.



## FROZEN JUICE CAN LIDS



**MEDALS** - Glue **two lids** together over a ribbon to make a gold or silver medal that can be worn around your neck. Blue ribbons can be made from **blue newspaper bags**. With a knife, slit the bag along both seams, leaving the bottom seam intact. Now fold the rectangle in fourths (cut edges folded inward). Cut the ribbon to the desired length, staple, and glue on the lids. Glue a "seal" made from paper cut with pinking shears onto the medal. Appropriate words, pictures, or symbols can be drawn onto the seal. Allow at least two days drying time for the medals since little air gets in between the lids.

**ORNAMENTS** - Holiday ornaments can be made in the same manner. This time, insert a ribbon or cord. Cutouts from **Christmas cards or pictures of children** can be glued on to the **lid** under holiday trims.

**MAGNETS** - Make refrigerator magnets by choosing a **favorite photo or a magazine or greeting card picture**. Cut the picture into the circular shape, glue onto the **lid**, and attach a one inch magnet strip to the back. You can cut refrigerator magnets to the shape you would like.

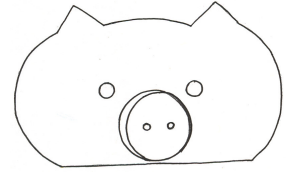
**SPECIAL BADGES** - Teachers can make badges for special birthdays or helper jobs by gluing paper circles onto **orange juice lids** and writing appropriate titles. Tape a safety pin to the back of a **lid** with masking tape.

**TRAFFIC LIGHTS** - Teach youngsters about traffic safety, by painting **4 orange juice lids** red, 4 yellow, and 4 green. Paint a **1/2 gallon gable-top milk or an o.j. carton** a solid color (using acrylics) and glue the painted **lids** on all 4 sides of the carton to look like a traffic signal.

## ORANGE JUICE CANS

**PENCIL CANS** - To make a leather-looking pencil can, tear **old paper bags** into irregular pieces, about the size of a half dollar. Glue the pieces to a **12 oz. frozen orange juice can**. Smooth the edges, making sure all are securely glued in place. When dry, apply a non-toxic paste brown shoe polish to the surface in a well-ventilated area, creating a leather-look appearance. Dads, grandpas, or uncles will be thrilled to put their pens and pencils in this handy desk accessory.

**HALF-MASKS** - You can make these from **the chipboard from a frozen orange juice can**. Cut off the metal bottom, and pull off the outer paper of the can leaving a soft chipboard finish. Leave the white inside paper intact. Now cut the mask into a cat, owl, pig, or jack-o-lantern face. Use watercolors to paint the face and add your own creative touches - **pink milk cap** noses for pigs, **feathers** for owls.



## JIGSAW PUZZLE PIECES



To make a reindeer Christmas pin, paint **three puzzle pieces** brown. Glue two pieces angled behind the third (sticking) out like antlers with a knob at the bottom of the face. Glue on googly eyes, a red pompon nose, and hang a jingle bell on a thin, red ribbon, gluing the ribbon to the back of the pieces. Glue a jewelry pin to the back.

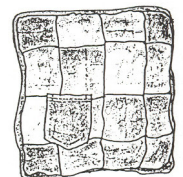
## CLOTH

**GIFT BAGS** - These can be sewn from the legs of **old pants**. Cut the leg off below the knee. Turn inside out and stitch a seam at the cut end. Turn right side out, press, fill with a present and tie with a reusable cloth ribbon. **Blue jean** bags are great for teen-agers. Party bags or puppets can be sewn from the long sleeves of **old shirts**. Cut the sleeves off below the elbow. Turn inside out and stitch a seam at the cut end. Turn right side out and press. The upper corners can be pressed down and tacked with thread with thread to form "ears". A fabric marker can then be used to draw on animal faces - pig, cat, dog, etc. Party treats can be put inside, then tied at the shirt cuff with reusable cloth ribbon to form a ribbon around the puppet's neck.

## BLUE JEANS

**POCKET ORGANIZERS**- Collect the back pockets from **old denim jeans** and sew onto a large sturdy fabric in neat rows and you have a handy storage area to slip your class' calculators in when not in use. Number the pockets and corresponding calculators and when hung on the wall, it's easy to see who has not returned theirs.

**PURSE** -Make purses in the quilted pattern also, with various colors of jean squares.



**BEDCOVER** - Cut out **6" to 9" squares of blue jean fabric**, sew together in a quilted pattern until large enough to cover a bed. Finish the edges.

**FRIENDSHIP PILLOW** - Sew a patchwork pillow cover front using several shades of blue jeans. Stitch a jean back pocket to this. Back the pillow with another fabric. When giving as a birthday gift, include a fabric marker so birthday party attendees can sign a "square".

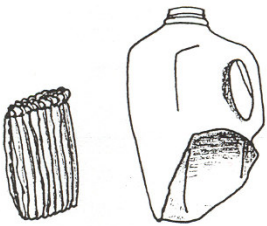
## OLD NECKTIES

**PICTURE FRAME-** Make a picture frame by cutting out the center, flat, rectangular portion of a **polystyrene meat tray**. Open the seams of a **colorful necktie** and press to flatten creases. Glue or pin end of tie onto the tray, then wrap tie around tray frame and glue down the end. Place a photo on a piece of chipboard and glue another triangular piece as the stand to make a back. Attach back to frame.

**GYPSY SKIRT** –For use as a costume or for fashion, open seams of **many neckties** and press to flatten creases. Sew ties together lengthwise until skirt fits around you. Measure length of skirt needed, cut off the tops of the ties and sew in elastic at the waistband. Ties an also be used as **tail feathers of a Thanksgiving turkey bulletin board display**.

## ONE-OF-A-KIND SOCKS

**BEAN-BAGS-** Have children turn their **mate-less socks (no holes!)** into great beanbags. Simply fill the sock with beans and place a sturdy rubber band where the ribbing begins. Younger children can make their beanbag friend look like a fish by gluing on felt eyes and folding the ribbing down to resemble a fish tail. Older children will enjoy playing a game where they can fling their beanbags outside at a target by swinging it.



**SOCK-TOSS GAME** -To reuse a “holey” sock, cut off the foot, sew one end of the ribbed section together, fill with beans, and sew the other end of the ribbing together. For a great “sock toss” game, make scoops for both tossing and catching the beanbag, from **gallon #2 plastic milk jugs** that have been cut diagonally from one side to the other. The jug handle serves as the scoop’s handle.

## FABRIC SCRAPS

Cut pieces of **old sweat suits** into quarter inch strips, 3” or 4” long. Use them to create a rug by hooking them into a hook-rug canvas.

## WINE BOTTLE CORKS

**RUDOLPH REINDEER** - Cut one cork into four 1/4” slices for the feet and save the remaining piece for his head. Use a second cork as the body and use toothpicks as the legs to connect the feet and head to the body, and break off a one inch piece of toothpick for the tail. Use pieces of toothpicks glued together to create antlers, tie a bell around the neck with red ribbon, glue a red puffy ball for the nose, and draw eyes with markers.

**BULLETIN BOARD** -Make a cork board by saving **many corks** and using a glue gun to attach them in rows end-to-end on a piece of sturdy cardboard.

**HOT PAD/TRIVET** - Glue side-to-side in any shape desired making sure they are of **equal length** so the trivet is level and stable.

**BIRDHOUSE ORNAMENT** - Glue a 3/8” section of a natural-colored round, wooden toothpick to a wine cork at about the midpoint. Using a black marker, color in a circle above the “perch,” and

glue a small amount of spanish moss to the top of the cork. Put together two puzzle pieces at a 90 degree angle and glue to top of cork, forming the birdhouse roof. Add brown floss for hanging.

## LIGHT BULBS



**SANTA ORNAMENT** - Paint **used light bulb** three times with white acrylic paint. With wide end facing the bottom, use a black marker to outline big eyes, round nose, and an outline of a face with eyebrows. Paint in the face with flesh colored paint, add a touch of red for rosy cheeks, and embellish the eyes as desired. Glue plastic decorative snow all over the wide part of the bulb for his beard. Glue a narrow, red ornament hanger on screw-in part of bulb. Glue another red ribbon (wide enough to cover the silver part of the bulb) around the top allowing 2 or 3" to hang down as the tail of the hat. Twist the ribbon and glue the end to the side of the bulb next to his face. Add a small, white pompon to the end of the hat tail.

**PIG** - To make a pig, coat a **used light bulb** with three layers of pink acrylic paint. Glue two triangular pieces of pink felt for ears and paint the eyes. Glue a coil of pink pipe cleaner on the wide end as a tail. Glue four cardboard strips coiled into tubes and paint pink. Glue the four tubes onto the bottom of the bulb for feet.

**MARACAS** - Coat **incandescent light bulbs** with several layers of papier mache strips, allowing them to dry between layers. Hit coated bulbs to break the insides. Decorate with paint.

## BOTTLES, JARS, OR BAND-AID BOXES

Use pinking shears or scissors to cut small squares and rectangles out of various colors of **leftover fabric**. Glue them onto interesting shaped **bottles, jars or Band-Aid type cans** to form a quilted effect.

**MESSAGE HOLDER** - This great Mom's Day gift idea begins with that **empty metal bandage container** that you've decorated as above. Save blank sides of **paper to be recycled** and cut them into the same size to form a note pad. Place in decorated box with a pencil and you have a beautiful, useful gift.

## NET PRODUCE BAGS

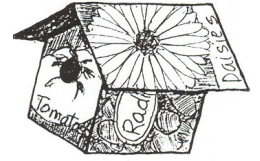
**DISH SCRUBBER** - Ball up **four or five net produce bags** and sew together into a ball with button thread.

## BABY FOOD JAR

**SNOW GLOBE** - Glue miniature figures and medicine ball cotton onto the inside of a **baby food jar lid** (using glue gun). Fill **jar** with glycerin and glitter. Squeeze a bead of glue around the lid and screw on while still hot to seal.

## SEED PACKETS

**DECORATIVE BIRD HOUSE** - Carefully open and flatten **four empty seed packets**. Glue these together, keeping sides even and then using a coin for template, cut out a hole. Cut off top flaps, and cut down each fold 2" from top (making 4 cuts, one down each edge). Fold front with coin hole, and back sides to form roof peak. Glue 4th side to form house. Glue bottom flaps. Glue **2 additional empty packets** together to make roof, and glue to house. Add flowers/decorations if you would like.



## PLASTIC UTENSILS

**CHOIR SINGERS CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT** – Make this ornament by gluing a **plastic knife, fork, and spoon** together, in a fanned position. Wrap 4" of pipe cleaner around each handle as the arms. Cut small, folded choir books out of **Christmas cards** and glue to pipe cleaner hands. Use markers to draw faces with wide singing mouths. Decorate heads as desired with **yarn** for hair or **ribbon** as a hat.

## WALLPAPER

**VALENTINE BASKET** - Cut out two identical large hearts from contrasting patterns and one, 1" wide strip about 6" long for handle. Fold each heart in half. Place points together and glue them slightly overlapping like a pocket. Fold the 6" strip in half, and glue to each side of the basket for the handle.

**PUPPETS OR MASKS** - Glue the edges of two identically cut out shapes leaving a hole at the bottom for hand to enter. Decorate faces, eye-holes, etc. with markers as appropriate.

**STATIONERY** - **Wallpaper or used gift wrap** makes great stationery for writing notes. Find an area in a **wallpaper book** that has no printing and use as the inside of the note card. Use an envelope as a pattern to cut out a matching envelope. Make thank you notes for gifts out of the **used gift wrapping** the present came in.

## JUNK MAIL RETURN ENVELOPES

**GUMMED REINFORCERS** - Punch holes along the adhesive strip on envelopes. Cut out and use to reinforce paper holes in binders.

**LABELS** -Also, use this **sticky portion of an unused return envelope** to make labels that lick and stick.

## POSTAGE STAMP JEWELRY

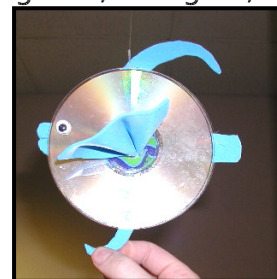
Save **canceled postage stamps** which have not been ruined by the cancellation stamp and laminate or cover them with clear contact paper. Create **EARRINGS, PINS or BARRETTES**, by gluing onto jewelry hardware from craft stores. Or, attach a magnet to the back to use as a **REFRIGERATOR MAGNET**. Canceled stamps can also be used as pictures in doll houses or dioramas.

## COFFEE GROUNDS

Coffee Ground Fossils – Mix together 1 cup used coffee grounds, 1 cup flour, ½ cup salt and ½ cup cold brewed coffee. (You may need more dry ingredients if it is sticky). Pat the doughy mixture into a circle – use a cut out if desired. Press item to be fossilized into circle, then remove. Either air dry for several days or bake at 250 for 1-1½ hours.

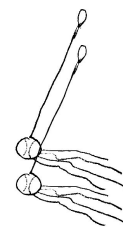
## CD FISH

Supplies needed are 2 old CDs, colored construction paper, googly eyes, fishing line, hot glue, permanent markers. Cut top and bottom fins, tail and fish lips from construction paper. Glue long loop of fishing line to the wrong side of one CD. Let set. Place lines of hot glue near base of fins, tail, and lips, and glue top CD in place, making sure to align CDs carefully. Glue googly eyes in place on each side of fish. Fanfold a piece of construction paper approximately 6" wide. Insert folded paper through hole in the center of CDs and fan out. (Optional) Draw designs on the CDs with markers.

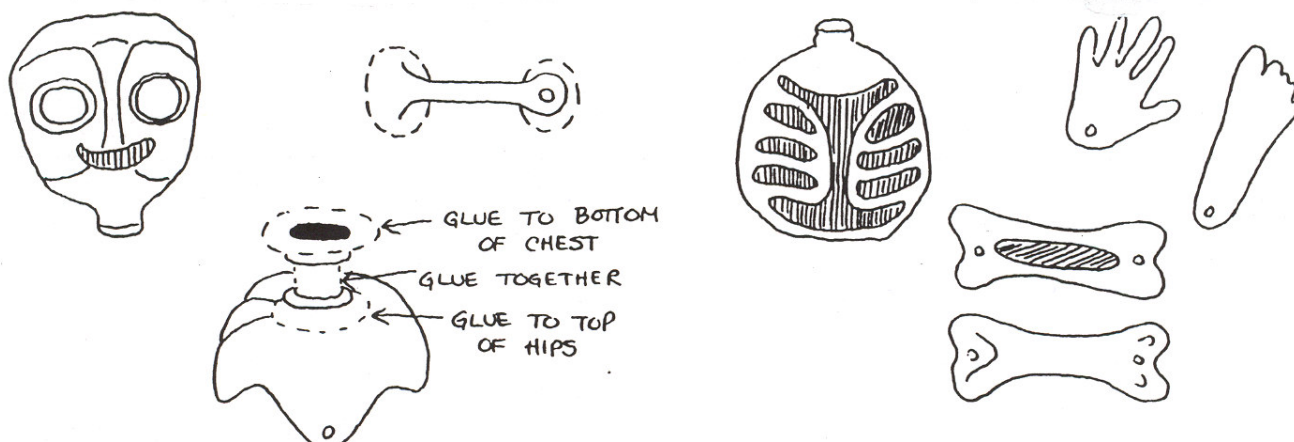


## TENNIS BALLS

Make your own poi balls! Use **old sturdy material** to make the loop handles. Cut 2 strips about 1" wide and about 4" long. Pre-cut a small 'X' at both ends of each strip which will provide a pilot hole for the gromets. **Gromet kits** are available at any hardware store. Pound the gromets into the pilot holes to make a hole for the string. Take **2 tennis balls** and cut a 1" slit in each. Next, tie **old shoe strings** around the middle bar of two **soda pop tabs** and stuff the pop tabs into the slit of each tennis ball. The pop tabs will sit perpendicular inside the tennis balls, anchoring the string. Tie the other end of the string to the gromet hole in your loop handles. You should be able to put your fingers in the loops and have the poi at your sides without the ball touching the ground. To add a tail, cut **plastic newspaper bags** into strips and tie to the middle bar of two soda pop tabs (don't pull too tight or it will rip) and insert into a new slit cut at 90° from the other slit. Poi twirling techniques are available online!

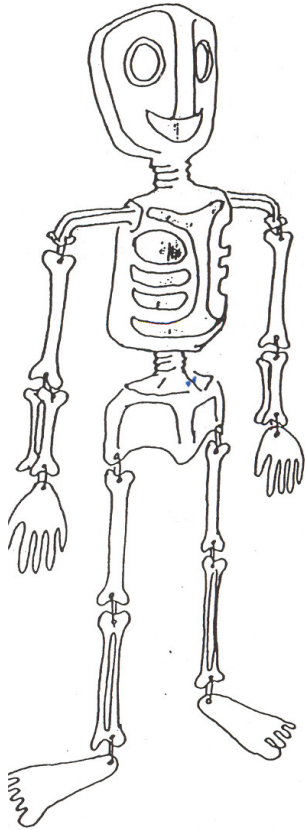


## PLASTIC # 2, HDPE, MILK JUGS



**MR. BOTTLE BONES** - To make a life-size skeleton, you need: **8-9 clean plastic gallon jugs**; string; scissors; craft knife (optional; for parents only); glue gun (parent use); one-hole punch.

Punching holes and tying on bones is a job for little kids; cutting out and gluing together the pieces is a job for older children and parents. If you would like, you can paint Mr. Bones a neon color to make him appear to glow.



**Head** - Choose a jug with a pair of circular indentations opposite the handle and turn it upside down. In the corner, opposite the handle, cut out a large smiling mouth. Center under the indented "eyes". Make two small slits in the top of the head and tie a loop of string through them for hanging the finished skeleton.

**Chest** - As shown, cut a vertical slit down the center of a right-side up jug, directly opposite the handle. Cut and trim away plastic to make the rib cage. Glue the head and chest together at the neck, connecting the spouts of the two jugs with a thick band of hot glue. Hold the jugs together for a few minutes until the glue cools.

**Shoulders** - Cut off two jug handles (leaving a small collar on the ends) and attach them to the chest section with hot glue. Punch a hole at one end of each shoulder.

**Hips** - Cut all the way around a jug, about 4 1/2" up from the bottom. Take the bottom piece and trim away a small smile shape from each side to make a four-cornered shape. Punch holes in two opposite corners.

**Waist** - Cut out two spouts, leaving a 1/2" collar on each. Glue the spouts together and let dry. Then, hot glue the waist to the bottom of the chest and the top of the hip section.

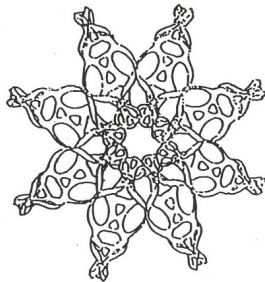
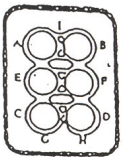
**Arms and Legs** - Cut eight long bone shapes from the corner sections of three jugs (cut into the curved shape of the jug, to make the bones even more realistic). From four of these bones, cut out the center to make lower limbs (forearms and shins). Punch a hole through the ends

of all eight bones. Tie two arm sections to each shoulder, and two leg sections to each hip with string.

**Hands and Feet** - Let the kids trace their hands and feet onto the side of a jug, then cut out the shapes. Punch holes in the hands and feet and tie them onto the arms and legs.

## PLASTIC SIX-PACK RINGS

**SNOW CREATIONS** - Can be made into beautiful hanging decorations that can be enjoyed throughout the winter season. Gather a **matching set of 16** to make one decoration. For best results, divide students into pairs and have each pair work together to complete the project.



1) Fold a plastic, 6-pack holder in half lengthwise. Start by stapling point A to point B and then staple point C to point D.

2) Repeat step 1 with the other 15 holders.

3) Staple point F of a holder to point E of a second one. Also, staple point H of the first holder to pt. G of the second one. Staple a third holder to the second in the same manner. Continue stapling until you can make a chain of eight holders.

4) In the same manner, staple the first and last holders of the chain together to form a circle.

5) Repeat steps 3 and 4 to make a second circle with the eight remaining plastic holders.

- 6) Place the flat, rounded sides of the circles back to back, aligning them at the eight points. Staple together at point I (around the outside of the circles).
- 7) Attach a length of ribbon or yarn at point I.
- 8) Spray with artificial snow and hang for all to enjoy. For Valentine's Day, add pink & red hearts. In the spring, add yellow centers to make the decorations look like flowers.

## BROKEN CRAYONS

Reuse **broken crayons** by removing paper and breaking into 1" pieces. Place pieces in metal muffin tins (either all of one color or mixed together for a rainbow effect). Place tins in a 200 degree oven for a few minutes until melted. When cool, you'll have neat large crayons.

## DRYER LINT

Here's a way to make *felt* shapes. Place a golf-ball size piece of **dryer lint** into a **glass jar** with several inches of **water** and screw on the lid. Shake for several minutes. Now pour the entire contents of the jar through a **cookie cutter** which has been placed on a piece of **screen** over a **large tin can** or **plastic container**. Press down on the cookie cutter form. Remove the cookie cutter and press firmly with a **sponge** to squeeze out as much moisture as possible. Now place the shape within several layers of **newspaper**, press to blot out remaining moisture. Repeat several times to remove as much moisture as possible, allowing it to finish drying on a flat surface or pin the shape on the child who made it. It will dry there just as well! When dry, shapes can be written on or painted. This is the same process used for recycling paper. Just use **scraps of paper**, which have been pulverized in a blender, or have the children tear up four squares of toilet paper per jar.

## TRASH TO TREASURES RESOURCE LIST

***Beautiful Junk***, by Karen Brackett and Rosie Manley: Fearon Teacher Aids, 1204 Buchanan Street, Box 280, Carthage, IL 62321-0299; 1990 ISBN 0-8224-0626-8.

***Beautiful Junk II***, by Karen Brackett and Rosie Manley: Fearon Teacher Aids, part of the Education Group of Simon & Schuster; 1993; ISBN 0-86653-937-9.

***Egg-Carton Zoo***, by Rudi Haas and Hans Blohm: Oxford University Press; 1986; ISBN 0-19-540513-7.

***Likeable Recyclables***, by Linda Schwartz: The Learning Works, Inc; P.O. Box 6187; Santa Barbara, CA; 1992; ISBN 0-88160-210-8.

***Quick Games from Trash - Skill-Building Activities for Language Arts and Math (K-2)***, by Chris Sowada: Instructional Fair, TS Denison; Grand Rapids, MI; 1998: ISBN 1-56822-669-1.

***Re/Uses***, by Carolyn Jabs: Crown Publishers; New York; 1982; ISBN 0-517-54363-19-7.

***Super Art***, by Ellen Matlach Hassell: Sniffen Court Books; New York; 1991; ISBN 0-930790-19-7.

***Teachables II***, by Rhoda Redleaf: Toys 'n Things Press, a division of Resources for Child Caring, Inc.; 906 North Dale Street; St. Paul, MN 55103; 1987; ISBN 0-934140-41-3.

***Trash Artists Workshop***, by Linda Allison: Fearon Teacher Aids; 1204 Buchanan Street; P.O. Box 280; Carthage, IL 62321; 1981; ISBN 0-8224-9780-8.

***Trash to Treasure***, by Anne Childs: Leisure Arts, Inc. Little Rock, AK; 1996; ISBN 1-57486-0488.

SCARCE  
DuPage County Environmental Education Program  
799 Roosevelt Road  
Building 2, Suite 108  
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137  
Phone 630.545.9710  
Fax 630.545.9715

*Printed in EcoFont, using 20% less ink*