

UPCYCLED ART!

Grades 4 to 8 – Individual, small group

“Upcycling” - or creative reuse - is the process of making an item that is no longer being used into something of value once again (e.g. cutting up an old t-shirt to use as cleaning rags, or decorating a soup bottle to use as a storage container).

Creating art from items that would otherwise go into the garbage is a great way to reduce waste and raise awareness of the negative impacts of trash – on both wild animals and the planet.

How to create upcycled art

1 Collect items that are no longer in use!

Take a walk along the beach and collect colourful glass and plastic waste that has washed ashore; or wash out and save shiny potato chip bags or granola bar wrappers instead of tossing them out; or cut out pictures from magazines before recycling them. There are so many beautiful materials perfect for making art that we throw away every day – take note of what is going into your garbage and recycling bins and save what you can use!

2 Design your art piece!

Art can be anything! Upcycle a takeout container into a decorative snack bowl, or create an upcycled sculpture of a wild animal affected by garbage, or create a piece of wall art entirely made from reused trash – anything goes!

3 Display your work of art!

To help others learn more about how waste is harming wildlife and our world, put your work on display – at your school, at a local community organization, on your front lawn, or share on social media!



PHOTO CREDIT: PLASTIC FREE BEACH TORONTO

TIP!

Find a photo, painting or sculpture that you like and recreate it using waste. Or design your own work of art! It doesn't matter if your creation is big or small – your efforts will make a huge difference for wildlife and the planet!