



Reusing Discarded Materials to Make Puppets

Objective

Students develop an understanding that discarded materials can be reused.

Grade levels

K, 1

Science TEKS

Grade K	Grade 1
K.1A,B	1.1A,B

Prerequisites

At least a week before this lesson, assign your students homework—to bring a paper towel or toilet paper roll and any old or discarded fabric to use for their puppet. Paper towel rolls will need to be cut in half by the teacher. Students should safely gather materials to avoid any injuries when going through their discarded materials. Students should also wash their hands after handling old or discarded items.

Note: mention to your students that they must only do this under adult supervision.

Materials

Materials Students Bring to Class	Other Materials
Empty paper towel or toilet paper rolls	Colored markers
Old fabric (clothing, sheets, curtains, etc.)	Staplers/tape
Additional reusable materials as needed	Scissors

Extensions

- Take Care of Texas Fun Facts - <http://takecareoftexas.org/kids/fun-facts>
- PBS Kids Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Song (length 1:02) - <https://youtu.be/AsBOoCDXLH4>

Note: Some of these extensions are from external sources and may not reflect the views of the TCEQ. Before using an extension, please verify that it is appropriate for your students.

Introduction

As getting rid of our waste becomes more expensive, reducing the amount of waste we generate becomes more important than ever to protect the environment and human health, as well as to save money and valuable resources. With this information, teachers can help students understand what waste is and how students can reduce the amount of waste they generate by reusing materials. Students will reuse old or discarded materials to create a puppet. The puppets can be used for a class play or used as an environmental message.

Key Terms, Vocabulary

- **Waste:** any unwanted, discarded, or abandoned material or product that is no longer needed or used for its intended purpose.
- **Reuse:** using something again and again until it can't be used anymore. Reuse keeps a product in its original form, while recycling turns the product's material into a new resource for manufacturing.

Procedure

1. Prior to starting the lesson, teachers should cut any paper towel rolls in half so that all students have the same size.
2. Have each student draw faces on their toilet paper roll or paper towel half and decorate the outside using the colored markers.
3. Cut the fabric into 2-6-inch strips using the scissors. Teachers should staple the pieces of cloth around the top rim of the cylindrical roll to resemble the hair on the puppet. Teachers may also cut the fabric in the shape of a skirt or pants for the bottom rim of the cylindrical roll.
4. As an alternative, teachers can have students tape the pieces of fabric on their roll.
5. Teachers should engage the students to use critical thinking by asking them where their waste would end up if they were to throw it in the trash. Teachers can also ask the students to reiterate the key terms and discuss how their puppets demonstrate the concept of reuse.
6. Enjoy.

Enrichment

Instead of making puppets, the students can also use old or discarded materials to create:

- **The Class Menagerie** — Collect an assortment of junk - such as tubes, boxes, egg cartons, yogurt cups, plastic, panty-hose and so on. The children can make animals for a class zoo. How about oatmeal-carton penguins, shoe-box whales, or egg-carton alligators?
- **Berry Baskets** — Plastic mesh berry baskets make fine containers. Provide yarn or ribbon that the children can weave through the mesh. Add handles made of leather, pipe cleaners, plastic six pack can holders, or string.
- **Foam Picture Frames** — Plastic foam trays make attractive picture frames. Wash and dry them, then decorate the edges with glitter, sequins, rick-rack, or lace. Attach one or more pictures to the middle. Attach a picture loop to the back so that the picture can hang. Plastic six-pack can holders can also be used.

