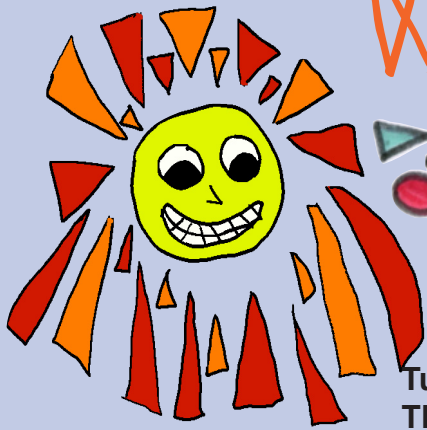




Waste to Wonder



Projects for Defenders of the Planet

Turn everyday “trash” into creative treasures that protect Earth! These hands-on projects inspire students to reuse materials, reduce waste, and show pride in helping our plan Each idea can be adapted for classrooms, clubs, or family gifts.

Clothing-Based Projects



- **Shirt Tote Bags** Cut old t-shirts into no-sew, iron on glue tape or simple-sew reusable grocery bags.
- *Denim Pocket Organizers** Use jeans back pockets to make wall organizers, pencil holders, or phone caddies.
- *Patchwork Earth Banners** Kids bring fabric scraps to stitch or glue into murals of Earth, animals, or trees.
- **Fabric Bracelets** – Twist and braid old fabric strips into friendship bracelets promoting “Friends of Earth.”
- *Sock Puppets** Colorful, silly, and educational for storytelling about saving Earth.



Trash to Treasure Crafts

- *Bottle Cap Mosaic Art** Collect plastic or metal caps to create murals of animals or Earth symbols.
- *Tin Can Lanterns** Punch patterns into cleaned cans and place solar or LED lights inside for twinkling lanterns.
- *Egg carton or Milk Jug Bird feeders** Turn milk jugs or soda bottles into creative feeders for backyard birds. Learn how to make egg carton bird feeders [here](#).
- *Seed Planters** Paint juice boxes or milk cartons, fill with soil, and plant seeds for herbs or flowers for your parents garden in the spring.
- *Plastic Bag Jump Ropes** – Twist and braid strips of clean grocery bags into sturdy jump ropes.
- *Metal Jar Lid Projects** – Punch holes in jar lids, write plant names, and hang on garden stakes or use them to fram photos and hang them with ribbons.



Paper and Cardboard Projects

***Cardboard Tube Binoculars** Decorate paper tubes for birdwatching and nature hikes or make a puppet out of toilet paper and paper towel tubes.

***Pizza Box Solar Ovens** A fun science project—cook s'mores using a recycled pizza box, foil, and sunlight. [Click her to learn more.](#)

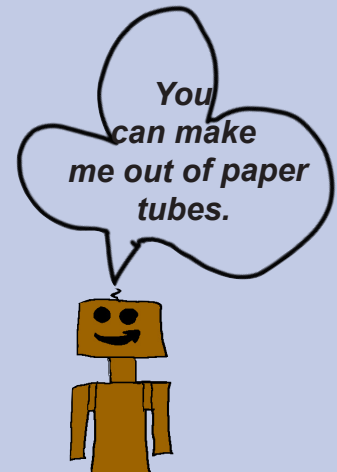
***Paper Roll Birdhouses** Use sturdy rolls and string to make mini birdhouses or pollinator shelters.



***Use old magazines** to cut out pieces of paper for a mosaic design of Earth or maybe a self portrait.

***Paper Roll Bird Feeders** Spread peanut butter on toilet paper tubes, roll in birdseed, and hang outside.

***A Newspaper Kite** You'll need newspaper, string, 2 sticks in a cross shape for a frame. Decorate as desired.



More Recycled Art

***Trash-Inspired Fashion Show** Design costumes from recycled items to raise awareness about waste reduction.

***Recycled Instrument Band** Make tin can drums, bottle-cap tambourines, and straw pan flutes for an "Earth Jam."

***Earth Mobiles** Hang upcycled items (bottle caps, fabric strips, cardboard shapes) to spin in the wind.

***Eco-Superhero Capes** Old sheets or clothing turned into superhero outfits for "Planet Protectors."

***Nature-Meets-Trash Art** Combine natural materials (leaves, sticks) with recycled items for Earth collages. Use a section of a cardboard box for the base.

