

Recycled Art



Audubon Center
Of the North Woods

Purpose: Garbage is art? Yes, and it is beautiful! In this class, students will realize the importance of recycling, and how solid waste can impact the environment. They will be introduced to artwork made from trash by *real artists*, and then make their own creations utilizing scraps and garbage, as a unique way to remove these items from the waste flow.

Concepts:

- Solid waste can negatively impact the environment, animals, and ourselves (some of it for hundreds of years)
- Waste can be reduced, recycled, or reused in many different ways, saving a surprising amount of energy
- Recycled art has a worldwide following

Learning Outcomes: Students will be able to

- Realize the lasting effects solid waste can have
- Recall and explain to others at least one interesting energy fact
- Learn ways to reduce waste in their everyday lives
- Design and construct crafts from items that otherwise would've become garbage

Minnesota Academic Standards:

Science:

- 2.1.2.2.1: Identify a need or problem and construct an object that helps to meet the need or solve the problem.
- 2.1.2.2.3: Explain how engineered or designed items from everyday life benefit people.
- 4.1.2.2.2: Generate ideas and possible constraints for solving a problem through engineering design.
- 5.3.4.1.3: Compare the impact of individual decisions on natural systems.
- 7.4.4.1.2: Describe ways that human activities can change the populations and communities in an ecosystem.

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CLASS LENGTH: 1.5 - 3 HR

AGES: K-12

SEASON: Year round

GROUP SIZE: 10-20

SAFETY: Take care with scissors. Origami may be difficult for students with poor motor skills.

MATERIALS: Bottles with messages inside, tweezers/tongs to get tricky notes out of the bottle, origami instructions, origami paper, five hula hoops, rope timeline and objects, boxes of junk, and craft stuff (scissors, glue, tape, markers, paint, tarp).

PRE-CLASS PREP:

- Set up decomposition timeline
- Prepare bottles with messages and origami squares in them
- Hide bottles along short trail
- Tarp on classroom floor for potential paint spills

CLASS OUTLINE:

- I. Ten Minutes to Teaching
- II. Introduction
- III. Artful & Environmental Experiences
 - A. Decomposition timeline (20 min)
 - B. Message in a bottle (25 min)
 - C. Reduce, reuse, recharge (10 min)
 - D. Origami Swan
 - E. Landfill hoops (20-30 min)
 - F. Living Art (20 min)
 - G. Recycled Art Gallery (15 min)
 - H. Recycled art free-for-all (1:30 min)
- IV. Authentic Assessment
- V. Reflection
- VI. The Sending (10 min)