



ACTIVITY

CREATING FASHION FROM RECYCLED MATERIALS

Time: 50-60 min

Days of Implementation: 1

Grade Level: Primary Learners

Designed by: Sandra Ospina

Alignment with STEAM

Science: Understanding the use of plastic consumption and its environmental impact.

Technology: Exploring how weaving was an innovative technology in the past.

Arts: Designing fashion pieces.

Related or achieved SDGs

- SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production: Promotes awareness and hands-on experiences with this goal.
- SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals: Fosters teamwork and collaboration to address collective challenges.

Objectives

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- Practice basic weaving techniques
- Understand how reusing materials helps their community
- Create a simple fashion piece from recycled materials

Materials Needed

- "One Plastic Bag" book:
[One Plastic Bag \(Read Aloud\)](#)
- Pre-cut strips of recycled materials for each student:
 - Construction paper strips (easier option)
- Clean plastic bags cut into strips (with teacher preparation)
- Fabric strips from old T-shirts
- Cardboard looms (pre-prepared):
 - 6" x 8" cardboard pieces
 - Pre-cut slots on top and bottom
 - Pre-strung with vertical strings
- Scissors (teachers use only)
- Sample finished pieces

Lesson Plan

Pre-lesson Preparation (Teacher)

Create cardboard looms

- Cut slots in the cardboard approximately 1.30 cm (1/2 inches) apart on the top and bottom.
- String vertical threads onto the cardboard
- Secure ends with tape

Prepare weaving materials:

- Cut strips all the same width
- Sort materials by color
- Create starter weaves for each student

[Here](#), you can view an explanation and images of the process.

Introduction

Since its discovery in 1856, plastic has transformed human life. It is lightweight, durable, waterproof, insulating, and cost-effective. The benefits of plastic in social, technological, and medical fields are undeniable. However, these same qualities pose a significant threat to the ecosystem. Most plastics do not fully decompose, breaking down into microparticles that can severely impact human and environmental health. As we teach children to weave and craft new shapes using recycled materials, we encourage them to reflect on the significance of weaving in human history.

1. Inquiry & Exploration

- Gather students in a circle.
- Show the ["One Plastic Bag"](#) book's images of people weaving.
- Demonstrate a simple over-under motion on the weave.
- Practice the motion in the air together.

2. Investigation & Research

- Read relevant parts of “One Plastic Bag.” Focus on:
 - How the women worked together.
 - How they made something beautiful.
 - How it helped their community.
- Demonstrate Basic Weaving:
 - Show the over-under pattern.
 - Use exaggerated movements.
 - Have students practice the motion in the air.

3. Implementation & Design

- Give each student a pre-prepared loom
- Start with one color of fabric strips.
- Use the “over-under” chant while weaving: *“Over one, under one, over one, under one.”* Teachers and facilitators can assist as needed.

4. Presentation & Action

- Display the students’ works in progress on the looms.
- Talk about the colors they chose, the patterns they see, and how their design could support or bring positivity to their community. Make sure to ensure positive comments only from the rest of the group.

Reflection

- Did students fully understand?
- What should I improve for next time?
- Was the lesson interesting enough for the students?