

Name: _____

THE ART OF BEING GREEN

There has never been a better time than now to “think green”—our planet needs us! Even when you’re creating art, you can do so in an environmentally friendly way. These days, more artists are thinking green as they work with recycled material or use safe nontoxic methods in their studios. Are YOU ready to take on a GREEN art project?

Read about how these interesting artists have created “recycled art.” Then answer the questions that follow on a separate sheet of paper.

- A few years ago a Massachusetts artist named Robert Pettit began to collect thousands of cell phones. He eventually built beautiful spiraling works of art from the phones by arranging hundreds of them in circles and sorting them by the style of the phone!
- Eco-Artware.com is an online gallery and store of unique gifts that come from natural and recycled sources. It carries tote bags created from plastic fruit juice packs, a wall clock made from a piece of chalkboard, and bowls made from smoothed, reshaped vinyl records.
- Artist Lance Letscher from Austin, Texas, makes bright, lively paper collages. While that doesn’t sound very complicated, Lance only uses scraps of paper that people have thrown away, such as book pages from a local used bookstore.

1. Why do you think it’s important to work in a “recycled medium”?
2. What can a young artist learn by using old or discarded material instead of buying new material to work with?
3. Do you know any artists who work with recycled material? If so, what do they use? What kind of art do they make?

