

hands-on lessons that

Patchwork Bowl

Everything comes from something! Teach students what it means to be green with a decorative bowl created from fabric scraps.

Grade Level: 2-5

Objectives

Students will identify recycling and reusing as alternatives to disposing and adding to our landfills.
Students will learn to identify recyclable materials for creative projects.
Students will create a practical gift item by recycling fabric scraps.

Literature Selections

Agatha's Feather Bed by Carmen Agra Deedy
Reduce, Reuse, Recycle by Elizabeth Thomas

Skills

cutting, gluing, fine motor skills, recycling, figurative language, compare and contrast

Set up and Prepare

Content Overview

Begin the lesson by tapping into what students already know about recycling. Write the words "reduce," "reuse," and "recycle" on the board or chart paper. Engage them in a discussion about what each of these words mean. Ask them to share examples of green initiatives they might see in the classroom, school or community.

Show the book *Agatha's Feather Bed* by Carmen Agra Deedy to the students and draw their attention to the subtitle on the cover (Not Just Another Wild Goose Story). Ask them to predict what the story is about. Tell them that the author uses figurative language called idioms throughout the story. Explain that idioms are a combination of words that have a figurative meaning that is different from the literal meaning. As you read the story, stop occasionally to discuss the idioms and puns in the story. After reading, ask the students to explain the difference between raw materials and final products. Write a few examples of each on the board.



Next, read *Reduce, Reuse, Recycle* by Elizabeth Thomas aloud to the students. Discuss some of the simple ideas shared in this book to make less waste. Ask the students to compare the two books. How are they different? How are they similar? What is the author's purpose for writing in each?

Materials

Elmer's® School Glue, Elmer's® Glue-All, Elmer's Board Mate® Glitter Shakers, bowl (to use as a mold), bowl (to use for the glue mixture), plastic wrap, fabric scraps, buttons, scissors

Preparation

Cover your work surface with a towel or wax paper. Prepare a glue mixture that consists of one part Elmer's School Glue and one part water. Cut fabric scraps into pieces. They do not have to be the same size or shapes, but pieces that are smaller than 5 inches work best.



Directions

Instruct the students to dip the fabric scraps into the glue mixture and place them on the plastic wrap. Remind them that the first layer of fabric scraps will be the inside of the bowl. These should be pattern side down. Smooth the fabric against the bowl and try to eliminate bubbles and wrinkles.

Once the bowl is covered with fabric scraps, drizzle a generous amount of Elmer's School Glue over the bowl, and smooth it into the fabric. This step is important as it provides enough support for the fabric to dry in the shape of the bowl mold.

Add another layer of fabric scraps by dipping them into the glue mixture and applying to the bowl. This layer will be seen on the bottom of the bowl and the fabric scraps should be pattern side up.

Again, drizzle a generous amount of Elmer's School Glue over the bowl, and smooth it into the fabric. Lift the bowl up and elevate it with a small plastic container or a cup so that the fabric edges fall below the bowl. Leave the bowl in that position in an undisturbed place where it can dry overnight.



When the glue is *completely* dry, carefully remove it from the bowl and peel away the plastic wrap. Use scissors to trim the edges and create a scalloped effect. Add a thin line of Elmer's School Glue along the edge and sprinkle glitter to give it a more finished look. Let dry completely.

Decorate the inside of the bowl with buttons, gemstones, or other embellishments. Use a generous amount of Elmer's Glue-All to add them at the corners of the fabric scraps. Let dry completely.

Lesson Extensions

Host a recycled art show and encourage students to create sculptures or other pieces of art from recycled materials.

Create a recycling station in your classroom or school. Engage students in the process of collecting and disposing of the recycled items.

Ask students to bring in an item from home that would normally be thrown away such as an old t-shirt, a broken toy, or an empty box. Challenge small groups of students to brainstorm different ways that the items can be repurposed.

Standards

CCSS: ELA-Literacy: Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

CCSS: ELA-Literacy: Ask and answer questions about key details in a text.

CCSS: ELA-Literacy: Identify basic similarities and differences between two different texts on the same topic.

CCSS: ELA-Literacy: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative language such as metaphors, similes, and idioms.