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CATALOGUE OF PRODUCTS MADE FROM RECYCLABLE MATERIALS









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Foreword

In kindergarten and school, the first steps are taken in encouraging children to gradually become active agents of environmental protection. Here, positive attitudes towards the environment are formed and developed, and ecological awareness is awakened, with a beneficial impact on their own lifestyle and that of those around them. All of these, placed in a broader and longer-term context, can evolve into sustainable behaviors.

The objectives targeted by the Erasmus+ Project "A Happy Life in a Healthy Environment" inspired the teachers involved in its implementation to organize a workshop-type activity, during which students created useful and decorative products through the creative reuse of recyclable materials.









The activity was carried out under the guidance of teachers from "Mihai Eminescu" Secondary School in Vaslui (the coordinating school), during the first project mobility, which took place between March 18–22, 2024. Wall clocks, photo frames, decorative lanterns, pencil holders, and flower pots were created by students under the supervision of their teachers, using materials such as plastic containers, metal cans, plastic and metal caps, cardboard, buttons, and glass jars.





The teachers from the partner schools, who took part in the mobility, considered the activity a good practice example and replicated it in their own schools.

Such an activity can help students understand the concept of caring for the environment and develop a responsible attitude toward it. It also teaches them to see potential in objects that are often considered unimportant, useless, or destined for the trash.

Glass, plastic, wood, paper, and cardboard are valuable materials that we can recover and reuse through creative recycling. Instead of throwing them away, we can give them a second life by transforming them into something special—something that not only beautifies our homes but also benefits the environment. To take part in this process, all you need is a bit of time, patience, and creativity!

Here are a few examples of products that children/students can make from recyclable materials: decorative objects (vases, paintings, figurines), toys, and useful items for the home or classroom (flower pots, desk organizers, storage boxes, etc.).

The benefits of creating products from recyclable materials are many:

- ✓ **Waste reduction**: Recycling decreases the amount of waste that ends up in landfills.
- ✓ **Conservation of natural resources**: Using recycled materials reduces the need to extract new resources.
- ✓ **Pollution reduction**: Recycling can lessen the pollution associated with producing new materials.
- ✓ **Ecological awareness**: Making products from recyclable materials raises awareness of the importance of recycling and protecting the environment.

So next time you're about to throw something away, take a moment to think: could it be turned into something useful and beautiful for you or your home?

On the following pages, we present the products created by our students. Our ideas can be used by any teacher during Visual Arts classes, the national project "Green Week", or other projects with an eco-civic theme.

We also address students, who can become eco-artists, will learn how to transform old, seemingly useless materials into completely new and surprising objects.

Turn Trash into Treasure!

What do you see when you look at an old plastic bottle, an empty egg carton, or a tin can? Do you just see trash? Think again! These everyday objects are not just waste. They are secret treasures waiting for a creative person like you to give them a new purpose.

In these activities, we will become "eco-artists." We will learn how to turn old items into something completely new and amazing. This is called upcycling, and it's a fantastic way to be creative and help the environment at the same time.

Get ready to make cool things for your room or to give as gifts to your friends and family. You can build a unique flower pot, a fun toy snake, a beautiful photo frame, or even your own decorative lamp! Each project in this guide will show you, step-by-step, how to transform simple materials into a work of art.

The best part is that you are the artist. You can choose the colors, the decorations, and the final style of your creation. While you are having fun, you are also being a hero for our planet. By reusing these materials, we give them a new life and reduce waste.

So, are you ready to unleash your imagination? Let's gather our materials and start turning trash into treasure!

FLOWER POT

Materials needed:

- a plastic bottle (2 or 2.5 liters) with a cap;
- an old CD;
- strong adhesive or glue gun;
- scissors;
- colored self-adhesive paper, stickers, decorative tape (for decoration).

scissors so that, when the cut part is placed upside down (with the cap facing down),

Description of the stages of

creation:

1. Cut the plastic bottle with

- it looks like a cup.
- 2. Make a hole in the cap.
- 3. Decorate the "cup" with self-adhesive paper, stickers, or other decorative elements.
- 4. Glue the "cup" onto the CD using strong adhesive or a glue gun.

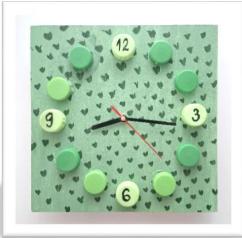




Attention! Ask an adult for help when cutting the plastic bottle and making the hole in the cap!



WALL CLOCK



Materials needed



- plastic caps
- a piece of cardboard
- colored pencils, paints, and brushes
- hot glue gun, adhesive
- hour and minute hand parts (or even a real clock mechanism)

Description of the stages of creation:

- 1. Cut a piece of cardboard into the desired shape (e.g., a square or a flower).
- 2. Use paints or colored pencils to decorate the cardboard.
- 3. Make a hole in the center of the cardboard and insert the clock mechanism with hour and minute hands.
- 4. Use a hot glue gun to stick plastic caps around the clock to mark the hours.
- 5. Add any final decorations and make sure everything is securely attached.

Attention! Ask an adult for help when cutting the cardboard.





PHOTO FRAME

Materials needed:

- cardboard (from old boxes)
- colored paper scraps
- scissors
- colored pencils or markers
- small buttons or beads
- plastic/aluminium caps
- hot glue gun

Attention! Ask an adult for help when cutting the cardboard.

Description of the stages of creation:

- 1. Cut the cardboard into two rectangular pieces, as in the image below.
- 2. Make a "window" in one of the rectangles, according to the size of the photo.
- 3. Glue the two rectangles on top of each other.
- 4. Decorate the frame with colored paper, buttons, and soda caps using glue.
- 5. Use markers or colored pencils to add designs.
- 6. Attach a photo in front of the frame.



Your recycled photo frame is ready!



TOYSNAKE

MATERIALS NEEDED

- * Many plastic bottle caps in different colors
- * A ping-pong ball
- * The little yellow capsule from a Kinder egg
- * 50-70 cm of elastic string
- * A hot glue gun
- * A marker
- * A small piece of colored paper

Ask a grown-up to carefully poke a hole right in the middle of every single bottle cap!



- 1. Make a hole in the center of each plastic cap.
- 2. Make a hole in one end of the plastic Kinder egg case.
- 3. Push the elastic string through the hole in the Kinder egg case. Tie a knot on the inside so the string cannot pull out. Close the case. This will be the snake's tail.
- 4. Thread all the plastic caps onto the elastic string, one by one. This is the snake's body.
- 5. After the last cap, tie a strong knot in the elastic string.
- 6. Use the hot glue gun to glue the ping-pong ball onto the cap at the front. This is the snake's head.
- 7. Use the marker to draw eyes and a mouth on the ping-pong ball. Cut a tongue shape from the colored paper and glue it onto the head.









<u>LAMP</u>

Materials you need:

- ♣ A large, clear plastic bottle (like a 5-litre water bottle)
- ♣ A cardboard tube from a roll of paper towel
- 4 An old CD
- A string of white, batterypowered LED lights
- A sheet of gold or silver sticker paper
- 👃 A piece of thin fabric
- Felt or foam stickers, or colorful pom-poms for decorating
- A hot glue gun (ask an adult for help!)
- Scissors

Steps to create your lamp:

- 1. Ask an adult to help you use the scissors to cut the plastic bottle in half. You only need to keep the bottom part.
- 2. Cover the bottle piece with the thin fabric. You may need to cut the fabric to the right size. Use the hot glue gun to stick the fabric on. Place the CD on top to cover the opening. Now, decorate the outside with your stickers or pom-poms.
- **3.** Take the cardboard tube. Cover it with the gold or silver sticker paper.
- **4.** Wrap the string of lights around the top half of the cardboard tube. Hide the battery box inside the tube.
- 5. Place the lampshade (the bottle part) on top of the cardboard tube base. Turn on the lights and enjoy!







PENCIL BOX

Materials needed

- **↓** 1 tin can
- **4** paint
- 👃 brush
- various decorations
- **4** glue

Description of the stages of creation:

- 1. Clean the tin can.
- 2. Paint it in your favorite color.
- 3. Let the paint dry.
- 4. Decorate it with stickers, buttons, or ribbons.
- 5. Use glue to stick the decorations.
- 6. Let everything dry.
- 7. Your pen holder is ready!

END PRODUCT



LANTERN

MATERIALS NEEDED:



STAGES OF CREATION:

- 1. Clean the glass jar thoroughly.
- 2. Paint and decorate the outside of the jar as you like.
- 3. Let the paint dry completely.
- 4. Use glue to attach the straw rope around the jar's neck or body for decoration.
- 5. Place the small candle inside the jar.
- 6. Light the candle carefully to use your lantern.



FLOWER POT





- a used opaque plastic bottle with a handle;
- strong adhesive or glue gun;
- scissors;
- colored self-adhesive paper, stickers, decorative tape (for decoration).

Description of the stages of creation:

- Carefully cut the plastic bottle from the top. Make sure to cut it wide enough to fit a potted plant inside.
- Then decorate your new pot as you like using the materials you have.
- Bring it to life by drawing a mouth and nose to complete the face!
- Finally, place your plant inside.

That's it!







SUPERHERO GLASSES





WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

00





- egg carton
- scissors/cutter
- watercolors and brushes
- pipe cleaners
- hole punch

WHAT TO DO:

- 1. Cut out the egg carton and keep two "cups."
- 2. Make a hole (3-4 cm in diameter) inside each cup and two small holes on the sides using the hole punch.
- 3. Paint the superhero glasses in your favorite colors; you can also add models or symbols.
- 4. After the paint dries, attach pipe cleaners through the side holes to create the straps.
- 5. Your superhero glasses are ready to wear!



TOY-CATERPILLAR FROM AN EGG CARTON

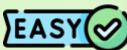
Materials needed:

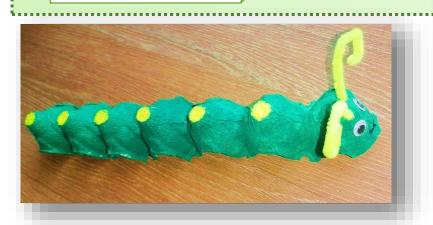


- egg carton
- scissors/cutter
- pipe cleaners
- googly eyes
- watercolors and brushes
- glue/adhesive

Stages of creation:

- 1. Cut out eight cups from the egg carton.
- 2. Turn them upside down and paint them in the desired color.
- 3. Once the paint is dry, attach pipe cleaner antennae and the googly eyes to one end.
- 4. Draw the mouth and other details with a marker.
- 5. Your colorful caterpillar is ready!







BOUQUET OF TULIPS



WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- egg carton
- scissors/cutter
- paper straws (for stems)
- glue/adhesive
- watercolors and brushes

WHAT TO DO:

- 1. Carefully cut out each cup from the egg carton.
- 2. Paint them in your favorite colors (red, yellow, pink, etc.).
- 3. Punch a hole in the center of each cup.
- 4. Insert a paper straw to represent the stem.
- 5. Secure with glue if needed.
- Arrange the tulips in a vase to decorate your home.



Egg-cellent Flower Garland

What You'll Need:

- an old egg carton
- scissors
- a grown-up to help with tricky cutting
- colorful paints and a paintbrush
- a long piece of string or yarn







Let's Make Some Funny
Flowers!

- 1. Ask your grown-up to help you cut out the little cups from the egg carton. One cup for each flower!
- 2. Use your scissors to give each cup a flower shape. Snip the edges to make them wavy or pointy. Then,

paint your flowers with any bright colors you can imagine. Let them dry.

3. Ask your grown-up to help you make a small hole in the middle of each flower. Take the string and push it through a flower. Tie a little knot so the flower can't escape! Add as many flowers and knots as you like, until your amazing garland is finished.

Glitter Bomb Your Christmas Tree!

You can also make these garlands to give your Christmas tree some serious style! Pick the right colours and then get ready to unleash a glitter storm! Go on, don't be shy!

Flower Bouquet Picture

YOUR SECRET ART SUPPLIES:

- > an old egg carton
- scissors and a cutter (get a grown-up for the tricky bits!)
- fuzzy pipe cleaners
- colorful buttons and a fancy ribbon
- a rectangular cardboard plate
- watercolors and paintbrushes
- super sticky glue







LET'S GET CRAFTY!

- 1. Flower Rescue Mission! Carefully cut out seven cups from the egg carton. These lonely cups are about to become beautiful flowers.
- 2. Glam Up Your Flowers! Snip the edges of each cup to make them look like petals. Give each flower a colorful makeover.
- 3. Add a Little Bling! After the paint dries, glue a cool button right in the center of each flower. Poof! They look amazing!
- 4. Plant the Garden! Glue your fabulous flowers onto the cardboard plate.
- 5. Tie it with a Bow! Twist the fuzzy pipe cleaners into stems for your flowers. Bunch them together, tie them up with your ribbon to make a bouquet, and glue it onto the plate. And... YOU'RE DONE! You've made a masterpiece!

Get Creative!

Go wild! Mash up different materials and colours to create the most creative pictures ever! You can hang them in your room to make it look awesome, or you can make a surprise gift for your mom, grandma, or a friend.







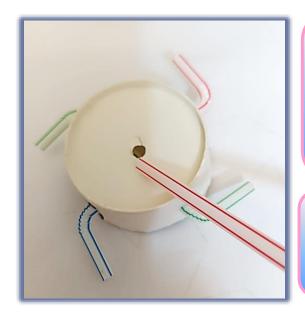
Get ready to build a cool windmill that spins really fast! This is a fun project that lets you use your own breath to make it work. It's a great way to see how powerful your lungs are!

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- 1 paper cup
- 4 straws
- 1 metal juice can
- hot melt glue

DESCRIPTION OF THE STAGES OF CREATION:

- Take the bottom of the paper cup. Find the center and make a hole.
- Make four holes around the paper cup.
- Pick four straws and insert them in the same direction.
- Take the bottom of the metal juice can and poke one side up.
- Glue the end of the can like a lid to the paper cup with hot glue, sealing well.



The small windmill is ready. As long as you blow against the center of the windmill, the small windmill will rotate rapidly.

You should also make another one to see who can blow longer.

MOON SHELF

Hi there, future artist! Get ready to make an awesome shelf for your toys or favourite treasures, all from cardboard.

What You'll Need:

- Cardboard pieces
- Colourful paper or paint to decorate
- A hot glue gun (Important: Ask a grown-up for help with this part!)

Your Cardboard Pieces:

- 2 big cardboard circles (31 cm across)
- 2 cardboard rectangles (4 cm x 29 cm)
- 1 long cardboard strip (4 cm x 95 cm)
- 7 cardboard stars
- 1 ribbon (70 cm long)







END PRODUCT



Step-by-Step Fun

- 1. First, carefully cut out all your cardboard shapes. Take one of the big circles and cut a crescent moon shape out of it.
- 2. Time to build! With a grown-up's help, use the hot glue gun to assemble your shelf. Look at the pictures for help! Glue the long strip around the edge of the whole circle. Then, glue the two rectangle shelves inside. Finally, place the moon shape on top.
- **3.** Add the ribbon so you can hang your amazing creation. Glue on the cardboard stars for a little extra magic!
- **4.** Now for the best part: decorating! Use colourful paper, paint, glitter, or anything you like to make your shelf unique. Have fun showing off your new shelf!

A Super Cool Bicycle for Your Doll

Does your favorite doll need a new ride? Let's build an awesome bicycle together! It's super easy and fun!



What You'll Need:

- 2 paper cups
- 2 drinking straws
- 1 piece of cardboard
- 2 toothpicks
- A marker pen
- Hot glue (Ask a grown-up for help!)

END PRODUCT



Let's Get Started!

- 1. Make the Wheels: Carefully cut the flat bottoms off your two paper cups. These are your wheels! Use your marker to draw cool spokes and designs on them. Poke a small hole right in the center of each wheel. Push a small, 1 cm piece of straw through each hole.
- 2. Make the Handlebars: Find the bendy part on your straws. Cut these two bendy parts off. Now, glue them together to create the handlebars, just like in the picture. Vroom vroom!
- 3. **Build the Frame:** Take the long, straight parts of the straws. Bend them to make the bike's frame. Carefully poke a toothpick through the ends of the straws that will connect to the wheels. Now you can attach the wheels!
- 4. **Put It All Together!** It's time to assemble your bike! Look at the picture to see how all the parts connect. Use the hot glue to put the frame together. Add the handlebars. Cut a small seat shape out of your cardboard and glue it on too!

You did it! Your doll's amazing new bicycle is ready to roll. It's playtime!

MOREIDEAS



Look at the pictures!

Find out what materials they are made of. Try to make the ones you like the most.























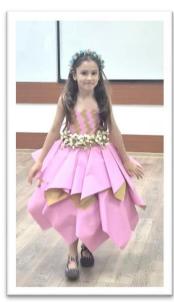
In your daily activities, find other reusable materials and objects. Think about what you can create with them. Combine them and find new ideas! Dare to be creative!

Clothes from Recycled Materials

Clothes from recycled materials are made from old things that we might throw away. This can be old fabric, plastic bags, or old tablecloths. These old things are turned into new, strong clothes. You can make simple things, like costumes for kids. But you can also make amazing dresses and fancy outfits by recycling trash into fashion.



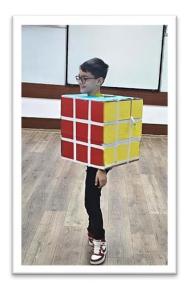




Types of Recycled Materials Used in Fashion:

- Plastic Bags: You can turn plastic bags into dresses and costumes.
- Old Tablecloths or Sheets: Old sheets or tablecloths can be used to make new clothes. For example, you can use them to make the body of an owl costume.
- Cardboard: Cardboard isn't fabric, but you can use it to make strong parts of a costume, like masks or wings.
- Crepe Paper: You can use this paper to decorate costumes. It's great for making things look like feathers.







How It Works:

- 1. **Collect old materials:** Gather things like old fabrics, plastic bags, or old tablecloths.
- 2. **Prepare the materials**: The old things are cleaned and cut into shapes you can use.
- 3. Make the clothes: The materials are sewn or glued together to create new things to wear. You can make simple accessories or cool, detailed costumes.























This type of fashion helps reduce waste.















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