ResourceSmart Schools
Online Learning

Instructions

After watching the video titled 'Upcycling' students can answer questions and undertake a research and a design challenge to reinforce the content.

Questions 1-4 of this activity should take students approximately 30 minutes to complete.

The project over page can be set as an in-class or take-home extended activity.

Years 5-8

Reflect, research and answer

1. What are the ways that waste can affect our environment?

2. According to the waste hierarchy, what should we aim to do with waste before sending it to landfill?

3. Brainstorm ideas for items that can be created by upcycling an old cotton shirt.

4. Did you know, that globally 73 million tonnes of clothing, footwear, and accessories are sent to landfill per year, often having barely been worn?

   • Think about the items in your wardrobe that you don't use anymore. Explain what you could do to prevent them from going straight into landfill.

Project – design your own upcycled product

- Research examples of different products made via upcycling.
- Using what you have around you, identify the materials that you have available to you for upcycling. These materials are called your source materials.
- Identify your product. Are you creating something new, or will your source materials be applied to an existing product to improve it?
- Draft your design.
- Present the idea to your class and decide what designs you could undertake as a class.

Please note:

- You may upcycle more than one source type to create your new product (i.e. you could use metal cans, timber pallets and cardboard)
- You don't need to use the whole source item, for example you can use a piece of a tyre, but don't have to use the whole tyre.
- You can incorporate new materials but try to keep those to a minimum. You might use things like glue etc…
- Possible source materials: timber pallets, bread clips, clothing, tetra cartons, plastic packets/bags, tires, plastic bottles, industrial machinery parts, pencil case, light shade, furniture, bags, garden planter box, jewellery, playground items, etc.