



Project Exploration creates transformative learning opportunities for youth underrepresented in the sciences –particularly students of color and girls – by equipping them with the skills, practices, and mindset needed for a lifelong pursuit of learning. STEM@Home makes activities around science, technology, engineering, and math accessible and fun to do at home. This STEMbook activity, resources, and more are available at www.projectexploration.org/stemathome.

In this activity, you will:

make a desk organizer using recycled plastic bottles. You'll explore what recycling is and recycled materials, such as plastic.



Supplies Required:

- 3-4 clean plastic water or soda bottles
- Scissors
- Glue
- Ribbons, construction paper or stickers to decorate
- Pencils, pens, rulers, rubber bands, etc.

Video

Follow along as the passage is read aloud: <https://tinyurl.com/y7v9lw14>

Learn how to make a desk organizer: <https://tinyurl.com/y8dvyycr>

Overview

Recycling is the process of turning used waste or materials into new products. When we recycle we protect the Earth, preserve the environment and conserve the Earth's resources. You'll learn this as you read along and listen to "Recycling and Conservation, Why Recycle?" Scientists say one of the problems we face today is the amount of garbage we send to landfills. When the garbage breaks down, chemicals bind together to form a sort of poisonous stew called *leachate*. If this leachate leaks out into the landfill it can cause damage to the animals, plants, soil and water supply in the surrounding area. Nature always recycles Earth's resources; air, water and soil are examples. Commonly recycled materials include paper, aluminum foil, glass and plastic. Today you'll be recycling, using plastic bottles and turning them into something useful. By recycling you're helping our environment and communities!



Instructions

1. Watch the video!
2. Ask an adult to help you cut the first part of the plastic bottle, you'll be using the bottom half.
3. Next line the edge of the bottle with Elmer's glue or a strong craft glue.
4. Slowly wrap a piece of ribbon or cloth around the edge with the glue.
5. Add more glue if necessary. as shown in the video.
6. Cut and glue strips of construction paper and/or add stickers for decoration!
7. Repeat these steps for as many plastic bottles you have and be creative!
8. For smaller items, cut the plastic bottle down to a smaller size. Remember to ask an adult or older sibling to cut the plastic bottles!
9. Add your supplies in groups--pencils,pens, markers, erasers, rubber bands, etc.

Additional Resources

Think About It! Why is recycling important? What else can you do to help protect our planet? What happens if we don't take care of our Earth?

1. More information about the science behind recycling: <https://tinyurl.com/ydc7yhjo>
2. How does recycling work? <https://tinyurl.com/k6cda8a>
3. What happens when you throw plastic away? <https://tinyurl.com/gvykxeh>
4. Animals recycle too! <https://tinyurl.com/y9qmzfpa>

Share It Out

Take a before and after photo of how you turned old plastic bottles into something useful. Have someone video record as you talk about the importance of recycling. Share all of your knowledge and work on social media!

Use hashtags:

#RecyclingReadAlong
#ProjectExploration
#StemAtHome

Share via PE's website: Students who complete STEM@home activities and share what they learned with the PE team via our website will earn points which can be traded in for cash prizes at the Explore Store. Your project number is 113. Learn more at www.projectexploration.org/explore-store

Join PE's character contest!

Design a STEM character who will lead kids through activities and be featured on our website and in our STEMbooks. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top 3 finalists. Learn more at: www.projectexploration.org/character-contest.



Call or text us for help: 312-772-6634



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