

What Can You Do With Cardboard?

Everyday “trash” can be repurposed as toys, props, art pieces and much more!

Age Appropriateness:

All ages

Key Topics:

Recycling/Reusing,
Product Life-Cycles

Skills:

Creativity
Teamwork
Art
Design
Construction

Materials:

Excess supplies,
cardboard boxes or
tubes, plastic bottles, left-
over paint, scrap wood or
any additional materials
that you can reuse

Action Time:

2 hours

Resources:

www.kidsrecyclingzone.com/

[www.redtedart.com/2011/12/
27/cardboard-box-craf-ideas/](http://www.redtedart.com/2011/12/27/cardboard-box-craf-ideas/)

OBJECTIVES

- Youth will use their imagination and creativity in order to repurpose cardboard
- Incorporate the Three 3's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle



Discussion

Let's talk trash. What are some common items that we throw away everyday? What are the different ways that items are disposed of? Where does our waste go? How could we reduce or reuse some of the waste that we create? What does it mean to recycle something?

What is “found” or “garbage” art? Are there any such artists in your area that can come speak to the children?

Action

- Have youth examine the waste at your facility. In small groups, have them brainstorm what they could do with some of the waste. Have them select the best options based on creativity and how long the newly created item might be used or appreciated.
- Have children help execute the recycling plan. Some materials that may eventually be recycled can provide a lot of temporary fun. Other waste might be made into art, musical instruments, toys, imaginative props, or other useful items. Have youth use the ideas they came up with to repurpose some of the waste.

Reflection

Review your success! How much waste did you save from going to a landfill? What can you do at home, at school, and on the playground to reduce waste, reuse what you have, and recycle what you do throw away?