

Ecological and Recycled Crafts with Sarah

Instructions:

Check out this sample lesson plan and activity ideas for inspiration, ideas, and more. Feel free to edit, delete, or highlight to make it your own! These notes are yours to customize. They will not be published anywhere such that you're held to teaching exactly what's here.

Topics

recycled materials, sustainability, found materials, ecological, making of a bee bath, a bee house and a wind chime, crafts with pressed flowers and leaves, explore the potential to craft with elements of the natural world and secondhand materials, learn about the importance of reusing materials and connecting with the beings in our local ecosystem, a craft class for halloween/samhain

Lesson Ideas

Lesson Title

Ecological and Recycled Crafts

Duration

1 Hour

Lesson Plan

1. ****Introduction to Sustainability and Recycled Materials**** (10 minutes)
 - Discuss the importance of sustainability and reusing materials.
 - Introduce the concept of ecological crafting and its benefits for the environment.
2. ****Craft 1: Bee Bath Creation**** (10 minutes)
 - Explain the importance of bees and how we can support them.

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- Use shallow dishes and pebbles to construct a bee bath.
- Fill it with water and demonstrate placement in an outdoor area.

3. **Craft 2: Bee House Construction** (15 minutes)

- Discuss the role of bees in our ecosystem and their need for safe habitats.
- Assemble a simple bee house using toilet paper rolls or small cardboard boxes, and dry grass or twigs.

4. **Craft 3: Wind Chime Making** (10 minutes)

- Introduce wind chimes and their use in gardens.
- Use recycled metal, plastic, or wood and string them together to create a simple wind chime.

5. **Craft 4: Pressed Flowers and Leaves Activity** (10 minutes)

- Demonstrate how to press leaves and flowers.
- Use them to create seasonal cards for Halloween/Samhain, promoting connection to nature.

6. **Conclusion and Sharing** (5 minutes)

- Allow kids to share their crafts and talk about their creations.
- Recap the importance of using recycled materials and the ecological impact.

Materials List

- Shallow dishes
- Pebbles
- Toilet paper rolls or small cardboard boxes
- Dry grass or twigs
- Recycled metal, plastic, or wood pieces for wind chimes
- String or wire
- Leaves and flowers
- Paper for cards
- Scissors
- Glue
- Water

Adaptations for Different Ages

- **Younger Children**: Provide pre-cut materials and more hands-on guidance.

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- ****Older Children****: Encourage creativity by allowing them to design their own variations of each craft with minimal supervision.

Movement Break

"Nature Yoga": Lead a mini yoga session inspired by nature poses like "Tree Pose" and "Butterfly Pose" to maintain energy levels.

Bonus Activities

- Create "Eco-Superhero" masks from recycled materials and have a role-playing session.
- Introduce a guessing game using various found outdoor items to stimulate their senses and observations regarding nature.

Series Outline

****Week 1: Introduction to Recycled Materials and Sustainability****

- Discuss the concept of recycling and sustainability.
- Group activity: Identify recyclable materials in the classroom or at home.
- Craft project: Create a collage using old magazines and newspapers.

****Week 2: Exploring Found Materials in Nature****

- Nature walk: Collect natural materials like sticks, stones, and leaves.
- Craft project: Design a natural sculpture using found materials.
- Storytelling session: Share tales of natural materials and their uses.

****Week 3: Creating Bee Baths and Bee Houses****

- Learn about the importance of bees in the ecosystem.
- Craft project: Make a bee bath using shallow dishes and natural materials.
- Craft project: Construct a simple bee house with recycled materials.

****Week 4: Crafting with Pressed Flowers and Leaves****

- Demonstrate how to press flowers and leaves using books or a press.
- Craft project: Create cards or bookmarks with pressed floral designs.
- Discussion: Importance of preserving plant life.

****Week 5: Wind Chime Creations with Recycled and Natural Materials****

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- Collect materials: old utensils, bottle caps, shells, and twigs.
- Craft project: Assemble a wind chime that uses both recycled and natural elements.
- Listening activity: Observe and discuss the sounds of different wind chimes.

****Week 6: Crafting with Secondhand Materials****

- Discussion: The value and benefits of using secondhand materials.
- Craft project: Upcycle old T-shirts or fabrics into tote bags or pouches.
- Visit to a thrift store or swap event for materials.

****Week 7: Exploring Crafts with Natural Elements****

- Experiment with sandalwood, clay, and other natural elements.
- Craft project: Create natural dyes or paints using fruits and vegetables.
- Reflection: How do natural materials compare to synthetic ones in crafting?

****Week 8: Reusing Materials and Connecting with Local Ecosystems****

- Discuss the importance of reusing and reducing waste.
- Craft project: Collaborate on a large community mural or sculpture using recycled materials.
- Invite a local environmentalist to speak about ecosystem connections.

****Week 9: Halloween/Samhain Craft Class****

- Introduction to cultural aspects of Halloween and Samhain.
- Craft project: Design eco-friendly decorations using recycled materials.
- Storytelling: Traditional tales associated with Samhain.

****Week 10: Review, Share, and Reflect****

- Display all crafted items in a class showcase.
- Feedback session: What was learned about sustainability and ecology through crafts?
- Create a class pledge for continued environmental consciousness.

For additional support, reference this [experience outline template](#) which includes tips and prompts to help you develop and lead an excellent Grasshopper Kids experience.

Note: This lesson plan outline was drafted by Hopper. If you would like to see different results, you can [submit another idea](#), or text us with feedback so we can work to make the algorithm better. We built this tool to help save you time in bringing more kids enrichment experience ideas to life!

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