

Earth Day Crafts

Water Bottle Spirals

Material:

Water bottles, labels removed
Permanent makers Scissors

**Directions:**

Use a variety of permanent markers to color on each bottle. Make sure the bottle is covered in color from top to bottom. With the scissors, remove the flat bottom of the bottle and discard. Starting at the cut edge, snip around and around, from the bottom of the bottle to the top, to create a spiral. Stop cutting when you get to the smooth, rounded “shoulders” of the bottle.

Strawberry Stones

Materials:

Small stones
Acrylic paint (red, green, black, white)

**Directions:**

Paint stones red and let dry. Paint leaves on one end of the stones with green paint. Paint seeds with black and white paint.

Driftwood Hanger

Materials:

Driftwood
Paint
Paintbrush
Hooks
Picture hanger



Directions:

Paint driftwood as desired. Let dry. Attach 3-4 hooks to the bottom of the driftwood. Attach picture hanger to the back.

Twig Weaving

Materials:

Twigs with at least 1 fork
Yarn in various colors
Plastic needles



Directions:

Start with the warp threads. Tie 1 length of yarn to the bottom of 1 of the forks. Wrap it back and forth between the fork, making sure to wrap it twice around each side. Leave about half a centimeter between each warp. Tie off the end of the yarn to the end of the fork.

Cut off a length of the first color you're going to weave with. Tie the end to the bottom of one fork. Then thread on the needle. Start weaving vertically up through the warp threads. Once you run out of the first color, simply tie on a second color to the end of the first color and continue weaving.

Garden Mushrooms

Materials:

1 round terra cotta pot
1 round terra cotta drain plate
Spray paint in white and one other color
White acrylic craft paint
Waterproof clear paint
2" wide round sponge
Small paintbrush



Directions:

Spray paint the exterior of the pots white and the underside of each drain plate in a contrasting color. Apply as many coats as needed for full coverage. For the dots on the mushroom tops, dip a round sponge in white acrylic paint. Coat it liberally and then press it to a painted drain plate. Remove quickly, leaving white dots. If needed, use a small paintbrush to fill in any light areas of paint. Let all dots dry completely.

Coat all painted surfaces with a layer of clear waterproof sealer.

To assemble the mushrooms, center a drain plate, painted side up, on top of each upside-down pot. For stability, use epoxy or waterproof outdoor glue to adhere the drain plate to the base.

Felt Pinecone Owl

Materials:

Pinecones
Felt
Brown pipe cleaner
Glue



Directions:

Cut wing and face shapes from various colors of felt. Glue wings and face pieces together. Glue the wing and face pieces to the pinecones. Make feet from pipe cleaners and glue to the base of the owl.

Papier Mache Earth

Materials:

Inflated round balloons.
Newspaper
Glue
Starch
Paint and brushes



Directions:

Tear newspaper or newsprint into small manageable pieces.
Cover the balloon with 4 or 5 layers of newspaper or newsprint pieces dipped in the starch. Let the balloon dry somewhat between layers. When dry, paint the Papier Mache balloon to look like the earth.

Nature Bracelet

Materials:

1" Masking Tape

Directions:

Tear off a piece of masking tape to fit around the person's wrist. Place it around wrist with the sticky side out. Go for a walk and find interesting things to stick to the masking tape, like leaves, wild flowers, twigs, seeds, pods, etc.



Tree Rubbings

Materials:

Colored Construction Paper
White Chalk
Masking Tape



Directions:

Find a tree with interesting bark. Press the piece of construction paper against its bark. Tape the paper in place. Rub lightly on the construction paper with chalk. Remove the tape.

Bottle Cap Magnet**Materials:**

Metal bottle caps

Clear casting resin

Tiny photo of a special person or an interesting magazine picture

Glue gun

Glue

Small magnets

**Directions:**

Cut photos to fit the inside of the bottle cap. Glue the photo to the inside of the bottle cap. Following manufacturer's instructions for clear casting resin, fill each bottle cap to the rim. Let dry overnight. Attach magnets to back of bottle cap using a glue gun.

Recycled Magazine Picture Puzzle**Materials:**

Card stock (or use recycled cereal boxes)

Magazine pictures

Glue

Scissors

Ziploc bag

**Directions:**

Choose an interesting picture. Glue picture to card stock. Let dry. Cut the picture into a puzzle. Store each puzzle in a Ziploc bag.

Craft Carry All

Materials:

Empty Six-Pack Holder
Contact Paper or Duct Tape

Directions:

Cover six-pack holder with vinyl cut in 2" irregular pieces. Lay overlapping pieces until six-pack holder is completely covered. Decorate with stickers or cut out your own shapes from duct tape to stick on. Use the sections to hold crafting items, such as glue, pencils, scissors, and brushes.



Recycled Robots

Materials:

Any recycled items—cereal boxes, milk cartons, yogurt containers, bottles etc.
Glue
Small items for adornment (buttons, pasta, bottle caps)
Silver paint
Paintbrush

Directions:

Gather together all items to create robot. Start with a larger box for the body. Glue small boxes or other items to the body to make a head, arms, and legs. Glue the smaller items to the robot to create facial features, knobs, dials etc. Allow glue to dry. Paint the entire robot with silver paint.



Milk Carton Bird Feeder

Materials:

Empty quart-sized cardboard or plastic milk carton
Scissors
String or cord
Hole punch or pencil
Bird seed



Directions:

Cut a hole in the bird feeder big enough so a bird could come and sit and eat the feed, but not too big or the carton will become unstable. Cut a hole using the hole punch in the top of the milk carton; put a string through the hole. Tie a knot in the string. Fill the carton with bird seed until it reaches the top of the hole. Hang the carton outside on a tree branch and watch the birds enjoy their snack!

Recycled Paper Cup Weaving**Materials:**

Recycled plastic containers (yogurt, party cups, sour cream)

Scissors

Yarn, strips of fabric, or embroidery thread

**Directions:**

Cut an odd number of cuts down the edge of the container. Select the material you want to weave with and tie it on one of the sections in the inside. Then start weaving in and out of the different sections. When it's time to switch colors or material, just knot the two ends together on the inside. Continue right up to the rim.

Picture Sketch**Materials:**

Magazine or calendar pictures

White sketch paper

Scissors

Glue stick

Pencil

Water color or colored pencils



Directions:

Measure the picture and cut the white paper so it is the same as the picture. Cut the picture into vertical strips. Lay out the strips on the white paper. Decide which strips to remove. Use a glue stick to glue the remaining strips in place. Use a pencil to sketch in the gaps. Use water color paints or pencils to finish the picture.

Earth Day Batik**Materials:**

12" square of cotton cloth
Wax paper
Gel glue
Acrylic paint

**Directions:**

Use a round bowl to lightly trace the shape of the earth on cloth with a pencil. Draw the rest of your design. Go over your lines with the gel glue. Any areas you want to stay white fill in with the gel glue. Let dry for 24 hours.

Use acrylic paint mixed with a little water to paint your design. Let the paint dry. When the paint is dry, soak the cloth in very warm/hot water for about 30 minutes to wash away the glue. Let dry.