

NATURE ACTIVITIES

RECYCLABLE BOTTLE TURTLE

Have a lot of recycled bottles and need an activity to do with your children in hopes to connect to nature? This project involves creating turtles out of recyclables bottles from home. Bottles are better off created into turtle art instead of in nature harming wildlife.

PART ONE - CONTAINER PREPARATION

Creative Reuse is a great skill to learn. Look around your house for recyclable bottles and visualize what they can become.

Resources/materials needed: Plastic 1 liter or 2 liter bottles, Soap, Water, X-Acto Knife, Scissors, Awl, large needle, thread/string, Permanent Marker, craft foam or cardboard

Skills: Cognitive, Motor Skills, Responsibility, Respect for Others, Hand-Eye Coordination, Technical Skills, Creative Reuse

DIRECTIONS:

Step 1: Wash the bottle with soap and water and let dry. When the bottle is dry, have your kids draw on a line around the bottle about 3"-4" from the bottom)

Step 2: After the line is drawn onto the bottle, it is time for the adult to cut on the line with an X-acto knife

Step 3: Make sure the cut is clean and smooth. You can cut around it again with scissors to clean the edges up.



Photo Credit: Res Life Crafts



Photo Credit: DIY n Crafts



Photo Credit: DIY n Crafts



Photo Credit: KrokoTak

Step 4: If you would like to make your turtle floating, use a piece of craft foam to create the body. If you do not plan on putting it in your pool or bathtub, you can use a piece of cardboard.

Place the bottle cut part down on the the foam in the middle of the sheet.

Step 5: Start to trace flush around the bottle on the foam with a pen or marker. Then make another ring 1/8"-1/4" out of the original drawn circle.

Step 6: Start to draw a turtle shape coming out of the "shell" (plastic bottle circle) Create a head, 4 legs and a tail in appropriate scale to the shell.

Step 7: Start to cut out the turtle shape that was drawn. This is good cutting practice if your kids are old enough to use scissors.



Photo Credit:DIY n Crafts

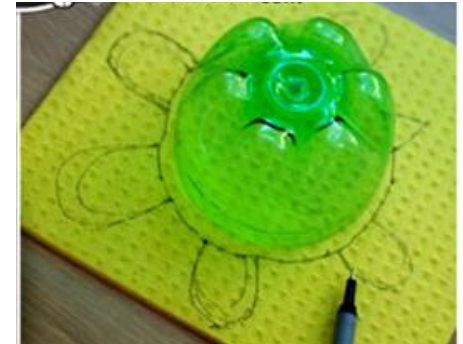


Photo Credit: Krokotak

PART TWO - ATTACHING THE SHELL

Resources/materials needed: Cut plastic bottle, cut turtle body (foam/cardboard) awl, needle, thread/string/ hotglue gun , beads or something to place inside of turtle shell, button

Skills: Hand-Eye Coordination, Technical Skills, Individual Craftsmanship, Creative Problem Solving, Self-Expression, Whole Brain Development

DIRECTIONS:

Step 1: Decide whether or not you would like to put something into the shell to shine through. Beads work well, sequins, etc. Get creative!

Step 2: Apply a ring of hot glue around the bottom of the bottle and attach it to the inner circle that you traced. Hold firmly for 30 seconds to a minute and let it dry before you start sewing.

Step 3: Depending on your thread size, you may need to use an awl to make holes for bigger string. Place the thread (about 2') in your needle, knot it at the end. Crisscross the string over the bottle humps while puncturing the needle through to the other side, coming up again. This can be neatly done in a stitch, or whatever way works for you.



Photo Credit: DIY n Crafts



Photo Credit: DIY n Crafts



Photo Credit: Krokotak

When you bring the string up to the top of the bottle, go under the previous string and make a sharp right. This will create a tighter joining point at the center top. You can also do this differently by making loops in all the crevices whatever direction you choose and then tying the strings at the top slightly together or not at all. It's your choice.

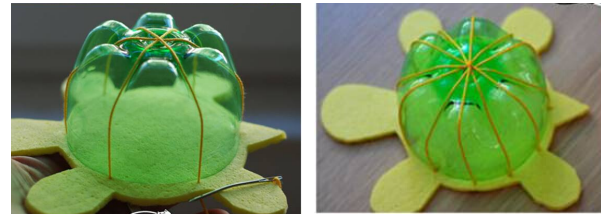


Photo Credit: Creative Ideas

Step 4: Once you have all the crevices circled with string or you ran out on your needle, tie a double knot on the foam part. Take the button and glue or tie it to the top center of the turtle shell.

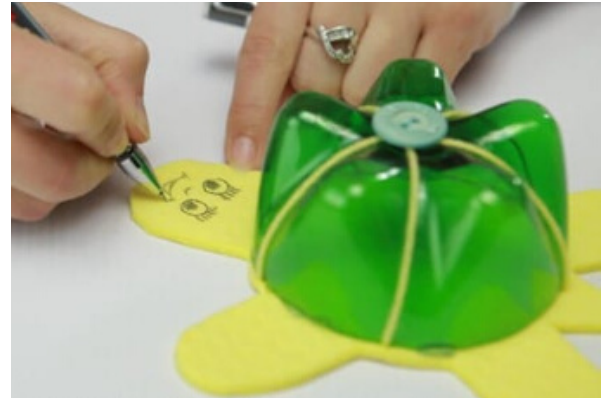


Photo Credit: DIY n Crafts

Step 5: You can decorate your turtle by drawing a smily face and toes with permanent marker or pen, gluing googly eyes to the face, coloring the legs/flippers (if you are making a sea turtle) with marker, gluing sequins to the shell and body and whatever else you would like to add. Have fun! Make as many turtles as you would like!

Step 6: After you made all of your turtles, place them in a habitat! This can be your room, the bathtub, your pool, a bowl of water, and in your garden. Watch them float around if you choose to put them in water. Be conscious of the environment and do not put them in public waterways, but only at your own home. You can also make these turtles a bank but creating a slit at the top of the shell or the underside of the foam big enough for change to go through. If you choose under, it will not float. It will also not float well if it is completely full of change. This is more reason to create more than one turtle!



Photo Credit: Krokotak

Reflection: Talk about your experience. What was your favorite part of the activity? Do the turtles float well?

Do they seem to look good in your chosen habitat for them? Did you learn a new skill? Was sewing challenging? What does your turtle hold? Hope you had a great time!



Photo Credit: Krokotak

Resources:

nczoo.org/education/family-group-programs/nature-arts-crafts
deceptivelyeducational.blogspot.com/2014/08/recycled-soda-bottle-floating-turtle.html
goodshomedesign.com/recycled-plastic-bottles-lovely-turtles/
muskokawatershed.org

webindia123.com/crafts/html/howtomake/554/plastic-bottle-turtle.html
diyncrafts.com/55430/crafts/plastic-bottle-turtle
.icreativeideas.com/how-to-make-diy-turtle-toys-from-recycled-plastic-bottles/
krokotak.com/2015/04/turtles-all-kinds-sea-musical-coin-bank/