

Total time

45 mins

Age range

8-14 years



Don't Waste It! Repurposing Our Resources



Learning outcomes

- The learner is able to understand the term sustainable
- The learner can identify renewable and non-renewable resources
- The learner is able to create their own Tee-Tote bag

Resources

- Old t-shirts collected from charity shops
- Scissors (ideally fabric scissors)
- Washable fabric markers

Key Vocab

Resources, sustainable, climate action, sharing, repurposing

Activity overview

1. Students participate in a conversation about how we use resources in our everyday lives, what do we do if we don't have enough and how we share with others
2. Students look at the term sustainable and make their own Tee-Tote Bag
3. Students examine how making a Tee-Tote Bag is an action for Global Goal 13 and estimate how many plastic bags this may save them from using

With thanks to UNICEF Jamaica for the Tee-Tote images. Follow their Instagram handle @teetotesJa for more updates! www.instagram.com/p/Bvo6570FuEW/?igshid=1128wo60x1ur4

Step 1 How Do We Use Our Resources?

5
mins

Note: A great video that explains sustainable development is available in English here: vimeo.com/144354623

Start the conversation by asking students: how do we use resources in the classroom? *E.g scissors, colouring pencils, books. What do we do if we do not have enough? We share them around, work in groups etc.*

If somebody doesn't share with you, how does that make you feel? Allow for student discussion in partners.

Next, ask students *do we use more resources than we need?* Ask students to brainstorm ideas. One example could be food, *do we waste any food? If so, what happens to it if we don't eat it?*

Introduce the word **Sustainable**. Have students heard this word before, *do they know what it might mean?*

Sustainable: able to continue over a long period of time.

Step 2 Turning to Local Action – Making a Tee Tote Bag

30
mins

Before Starting: Check out TeeTotesJa www.instagram.com/teetotesja/ an Instagram handle set up by students in Jamaica who are spreading the message of the Tee Totes movement!

You can also watch this short video of students explaining how to make one here: www.instagram.com/p/Bvo6570FuEW/

Explain to students that the way we live now often exacerbates climate change - we as humans have a nasty habit of using something once and then throwing it away. *Can students think of any examples? E.g. plastic bottles & cups, cutlery*

It's important that we start re-thinking how we use the earth's resources – in order to make sure we protect our own lives, as well as those of all the animals and creatures that share the earth with us.

Do students use anything differently from their original purpose? Can students think of any examples?

Introduce the concept of the Tee-tote bag. Depending on how many t-shirts you were able to collect - divide the students into pairs and explain that we are going to make our tee-tote bags.

This is also a very easy and short video to follow. Play it with students beforehand so they know what they're aiming for: www.youtube.com/watch?v=awf6FmeGMK0

See **Appendix 1** for instructions on how to make a tee-tote bag. Students can personalise their bags with marker pens.

Step 3 Estimating the Impact

10
mins

Once the tee-tote bags have been created, link this action back to the Global Goals.

How has making a tee-tote bag helped us to take a positive action for Goal 13 Climate Action?

Ask students *how might they use their tee-tote bags? How many plastic bags do they think this will stop them from using in a month?* Ask students to do a quick estimate, working out how many plastic bags they normally use.

Do students have any other creative ideas on how they could reuse old clothes or materials?

Step 4 Share Your Learning with Us!

We love to see students taking action for the Global Goals! Share photos of your TeeTote Bags with us [@TheWorldsLesson](https://www.instagram.com/TheWorldsLesson) and we'll showcase them on our social media.

Appendix 1 Instructions on how to make a Tee-Tote Bag



1. Turn the t-shirt inside out.



2. Cut off the sleeves of your t-shirt. Try and make these cuts as straight as possible! These shoulder straps will become the handles for your tote-bag.



3. Next, cut off the collar



4. Now, cut the bottom of the shirt into strips. Make them three inches long and 1/2 inch apart from each other.



5. Once you've cut, tie the two ends of each strip into a knot



6. To seal any holes, by tying the second set of knots. This time by tying each strip with one of the strips next to them.



7. Then tie a double knot on each end to keep it secure



8. Finally, flip it right side out!