

LESSON *plan*

grade: **ALL?**

date: **July 2025**

subject: **Art Camp: Art and Sustainability**

lesson topic: Weave It Don't Leave It: Upcycling Plastic Bags: Day one

learning objective/s:

- Introduce the concept of recycling and sustainability through art.
- Teach basic braiding, weaving, and knotting skills.
- Encourage creativity and problem-solving with different materials.
- Create functional or decorative objects like placemats, baskets, or wall art.

materials needed:

- Clean, colorful plastic grocery bags (lots!)
- Safety scissors
- Cardboard looms or trays with slits (for weaving)
- Masking tape or clothespins
- Large plastic/tapestry needles (for older kids)
- Hot glue guns (with adult supervision)
- Glue dots, tacky glue, or double-sided tape (for younger kids)
- Markers for decorating
- Sample projects for inspiration

Timing:

3-4 hours

lesson structure:

1. Prep Station - Make Your Plan

- Flatten and cut plastic bags into strips (ask older kids to help younger ones).
- OR use pre-cut strips for younger kids or early finishers.

2. Skill Station - Try Techniques

Campers can explore:

- Braiding (easy for all ages)
- Knotting (make cords, garlands)
- Simple weaving (use cardboard looms or trays)
- Coiling (glue into spirals for mats or bowls)

Younger kids can focus on braiding and simple gluing. Older ones can try weaving or basket building.

3. Build Station - Make Your Project

Campers choose what to create:

- Placemats
- Baskets
- Wall hangings
- Bracelets or coiled decorations

Adults help with hot glue. Younger kids use tacky glue, tape, or glue dots.

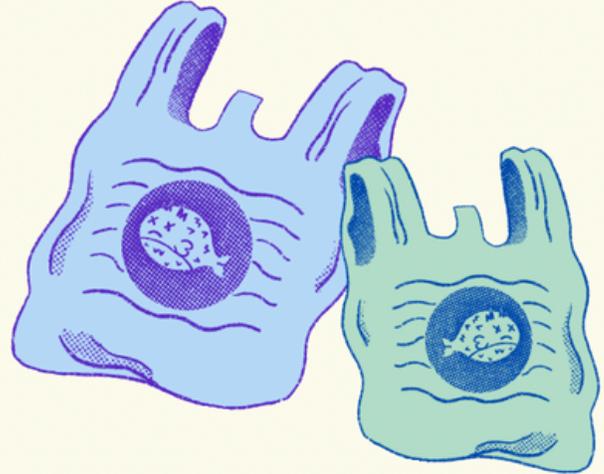
4. Decorate & Share

- Add names, drawings, or messages about reusing materials.
- Optional: group display or short "show & tell" at the end.

Give New Life to Plastic Bags

How are Plastic Bags Made?

- Plastic bags are made from oil or gas.
- Getting that oil can harm the Earth.
- The oil is turned into tiny plastic pieces, then melted into bags.
- Americans use 100 billion bags a year!



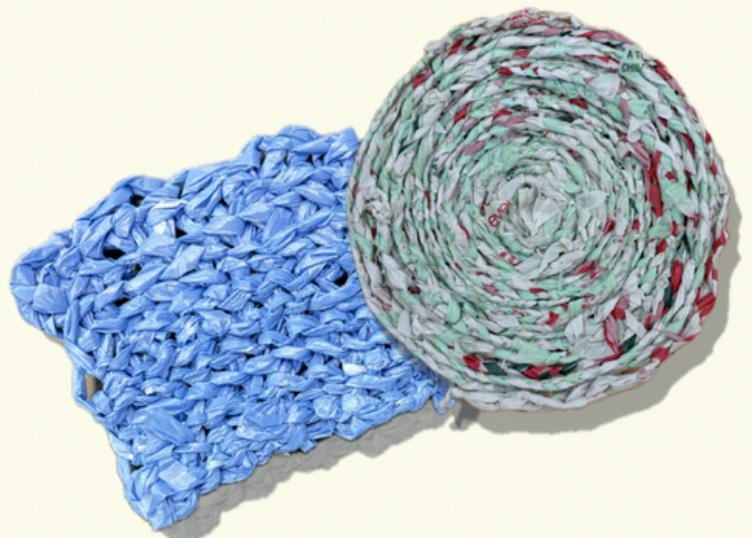
What Happens After We Use a Bag?

- Most plastic bags are used for just 12 minutes!
- If they go in the trash or blow away, they can hurt animals and pollute the Earth.
- Plastic bags take over 1,000 years to break down!
- If they go in the wrong recycling bin, they jam machines and can hurt workers.

What Can We Do?

- Braid bags into art!
- Make keychains, yarn, or fun crafts!
- Recycle leftover bags the right way.
- limit our use of single use plastic bags!

Your creativity can make a difference!



LESSON *plan*

grade: **All?**

date: **July 2025**

subject: **Art Camp: Art and Sustainability**

lesson topic: stick frame and weaving with old t shirts

learning objective/s:

By the end of the project, campers will:

- Understand the concept of upcycling and why it helps the planet.
- Learn to make yarn from old t-shirts ("tarn") and use it creatively.
- Practice basic weaving techniques using natural and recycled materials.
- Build fine motor skills and problem-solving through hands-on construction.
- Create a woven wall hanging or decoration using a handmade frame

materials needed:

- 4 sturdy sticks (straight, around 12" each)
- Yarn, string, or twine (to tie the sticks into a square frame)
- Old t-shirts (cut into strips—wide or thin depending on age group)
- Safety scissors (kid-safe)
- Optional: beads, feathers, nature finds, or scrap fabric for embellishment
- Optional: clipboards or trays to work on
- Name tags or cardboard for labeling finished projects
- For the group:
 - Pre-cut some t-shirt strips for younger campers
 - A few completed examples for inspiration
 - Signage explaining upcycling (visual aids are helpful)

Timing:

Ages: 6-12
Time: 3-4 hours (flexible, self-paced)

lesson structure:

1. Intro & Upcycling Chat (10-15 mins)
 - Talk about what upcycling is and how old clothes can become art.
 - Show an example of the finished woven piece.
 - Ask: What else could we reuse instead of throwing away?
2. Frame Building (10-20 mins)
 - Campers select 4 sticks and tie them together into a square using string/twine.
 - Help younger kids tie knots or give them pre-made frames.
 - Optional: decorate their frame with nature items or string.
3. Making Tarn (15-30 mins)
 - Demonstrate how to cut old t-shirts into long strips (you can pre-prepare some).
 - Kids stretch the strips to turn them into "yarn."
 - Older kids can cut their own, younger ones can pick from a bin of pre-cut strips.
4. Weaving Time (main chunk - flexible)
 - Kids weave strips over and under the string on their frame (horizontal lines).
 - Encourage color mixing, pattern play, or freestyle.
 - If a camper finishes early, they can add more decoration or make a second mini piece.
5. Wrap-Up & Share (last 30-45 mins)
 - Let kids show their creations to the group.
 - Reflect: What did you like about reusing things?
 - Optional: Hang pieces on a camp "gallery wall" or take them home.

FAST FASHION AND FABRIC WASTE

“Every year, people in the United States throw out more than **34 billion pounds** of used textiles.”

Boston University, School of Public Health



“Once textiles are discarded, **66%** of them are sent to landfills in the U.S. where they decompose — some quickly and others over hundreds of years. ”

Boston University, School of Public Health

“To reduce costs the clothing is made of worse and worse materials like polyester, otherwise known as plastic or fossil fuels, **which does not decompose**. Since the quality is poor and the clothing doesn't last, it **ends up in landfills or waterways**. **These clothes can break up even further into microplastics which pollute our planet even more and are harder to clean up.**”

-University of California Los Angeles



LESSON *plan*

grade: **All?**

date: **July 2025**

subject: **Art Camp: Art and Sustainability**

lesson topic: Poptab projects, people + bracelets

learning objective/s:

By the end of the project, campers will:

- Learn how to reuse aluminum pop tabs creatively.
- Practice fine motor skills using beads and wire.
- Express individuality through simple character/keychain designs.
- Explore basic construction techniques using pliers and soft wire.

materials needed:

Provided by instructor (you):

- Wire (soft craft wire, approx. 20-24 gauge)
- Wire cutters
- Small pliers

For campers:

- Clean aluminum pop tabs
- Plastic or wooden beads (variety of sizes)
- Key rings or carabiners (optional)
- Pony beads for younger kids
- Pipe cleaners (easy alternative to wire for ages 6-7)
- Optional: googly eyes, yarn scraps (for hair), markers

Timing:

Ages: 6-12

Time: 20-45
minutes (flexible, small
group or station activity)

Project Type: Warm-up
or filler activity

lesson structure:

1. Quick Upcycling Talk (5 mins)

- “What do you normally do with pop tabs?”
- Explain how artists reuse everyday objects.

2. Demo: Pop Tab Person Keychain

- Show a simple “person” with:
 - Bead head
 - Pop tab body
 - Wire or bead limbs
 - Optional: attach to key ring
- Kids can copy the design or freestyle their own characters.

3. Alternative: Pop Tab Bracelet

- Show how to link pop tabs together with wire or pipe cleaners.
- Add beads between or around tabs for decoration.
- Encourage color combos, patterns, or even a name spelled in beads.

4. Free Making Time (15-30 mins)

- Let kids choose to make:
 - A keychain person
 - A bracelet
 - A funky creature
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- Provide assistance with wire tools as needed.
- Younger kids can use pipe cleaners instead of wire for safety.

LESSON *plan*

grade: **All?**

date: **July 2025**

subject: **Art Camp: Art and Sustainability**

lesson topic: "Love Where You Live" - Environmental Landscape Painting

learning objective/s:

By the end of the project, campers will:

- Learn to observe and appreciate nature and local landscapes.
- Understand how artists express care for the environment through art.
- Explore basic landscape painting techniques (sky, horizon, foreground).
- Express personal experiences with nature through color and form.
- Create a finished canvas painting inspired by the natural world.

materials needed:

- 8" x 12" canvas panels or stretched canvas
- Acrylic paints (primary + earth tones)
- Brushes (variety of sizes)
- Palettes or paper plates
- Cups of water, paper towels, aprons
- Pencils and erasers (optional for sketching)

Timing:

Ages: 6-12
Time: 1-3 hours
depending on pacing

lesson structure:

- **1. Nature Talk & Artist Inspiration (15-20 mins)**
- Brief discussion: "What does nature mean to you?" "Where do you feel calm outside?"
- Show examples by Bob Ross, Emily Carr, Monet.
- Talk about how artists protect and honor nature through their work.
- **2. Sketch or Visualize Idea (10-15 mins)**
- Encourage campers to think of:
- A place they've been (park, forest, beach)**if not rainy, being outside and do a nature walk for inspiration!!**
- A dream nature place
- A mix of plants, water, sky, or animals
- Optional: draw a simple sketch with pencil
- **3. Painting Time (main activity - 60-90 mins)**
- Demonstrate basic landscape layering:
- Sky first, Background shapes (mountains, trees), Foreground details (flowers, animals, lakes), Let kids explore freely—there's no "wrong" landscape! Encourage color mixing and emotional expression.
- **4. Sharing & Reflection (15-30 mins)**
- Ask:
- "What part of nature did you want to show?"
- "What colors make you feel peaceful or wild?"
- Optional: Write a sentence or title on the back of the canvas.

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date: **July 2025**

subject: **Art Camp: Art and Sustainability**

lesson topic: "Together for the Earth" - Collaborative Mural Banner

learning objective/s:

By the end of the project, campers will:

- Work collaboratively on a large shared artwork.
- Express their ideas about nature, community, and sustainability.
- Learn how small contributions build a unified, meaningful whole.
- Build confidence through non-judgmental, open-ended artmaking.

materials:

- Large piece of canvas or fabric (banner size: ~6 ft wide)
- Acrylic paints & brushes
- Paint markers or fabric markers (optional)
- Water cups, paper towels, aprons
- Printed references of nature, animals, earth-themed imagery
- Pencil or chalk for sketching outlines
- Optional: masking tape to define sections

Timing:

Ages: 6-12

Time:

Introduced Day 1,
worked on throughout
the week

lesson structure:

1. Day 1 Introduction (15-20 mins)

- Gather campers and introduce the mural:
- "This is our group art piece—everyone adds to it!"
- "You can paint your favorite part of nature, something you want to protect, or a peaceful place."
- Talk about sharing space, respecting others' work, and adding meaningfully.

2. Sketch Start (Day 1)

- Lightly sketch general layout or invite kids to outline spaces to "claim."
- Let a few campers begin painting if time allows.

3. Open Studio Time (Ongoing All Week)

Make the mural available each day for:

- *Early finishers*
- *Kids needing a brain break*
- *Anyone who wants to add more later*
- Encourage kids to build off each other's ideas (e.g., one camper paints a tree, another adds a bird).
- Add inspirational images or "nature idea" prompts nearby.

4. Wrap-Up & Reveal (Last Day)

- Unveil and display the final mural!
- Reflect as a group:
- "What did you add?"
- "How does it feel to see everyone's work together?"
- Optional: add names or short artist statements around the border.