

MAKE A T-SHIRT BAG

INTRODUCTION

Figuring out ways to reuse household items can be tricky, especially when an item was made with one specific function in mind, like clothing. Reusing clothing might sound just like wearing something over and over again. But what if you could turn your clothes into something that can replace a disposable, one-time use item? Not only would you extend the life of your clothes, but you can also reduce waste. Double points for the environment!

In this activity, you will turn an old t-shirt into a reusable bag. This bag can replace paper or plastic shopping bags. Using this method also means you never have to buy a new reusable bag again! Since the bag is made out of a t-shirt, it's easy to wash.

Next Generation Science Standards tie-ins:

Grades K-2 K-ESS3-3: Use this activity to start a dialogue on ways to reduce negative human impact on the environment.

Grades 6-8 MS-ESS3-3: Use this, and other activities, that “include examining human environmental impacts, assessing the kinds of solutions that are feasible, and designing and evaluating solutions that could reduce that impact.”

(Nextgenscience.org)

Activity Components

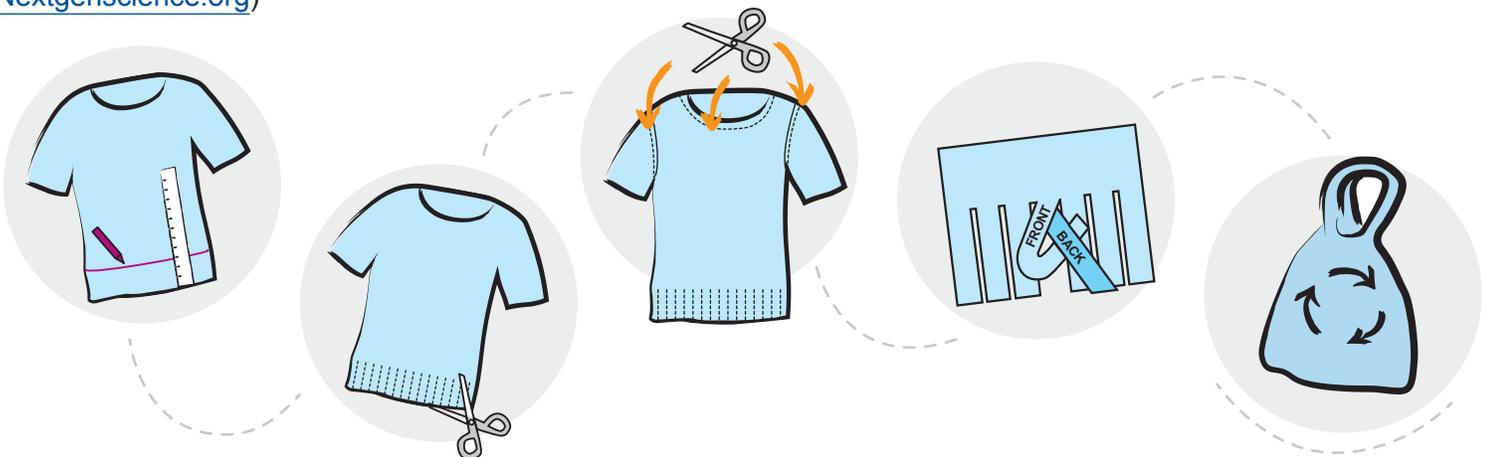
- Introduction
- Activity Outline
- Student Outline

Goals

- Practice following step-by-step instruction.
- Reinforce concepts of recycling and sustainability

Materials

- Old T-shirt
- (Fabric) Scissors
- Ruler
- Paper plate (optional)
- Chalk or marker



MAKE A T-SHIRT BAG - ACTIVITY OUTLINE



Preparation

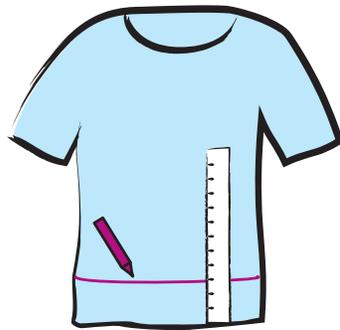
In preparation for this activity, ask your students to find an old t-shirt at home that they would like to turn into a bag. The shirt size doesn't matter, but the bigger the shirt, the bigger the bag will be.

This activity involves cutting fabric. Younger students may require assistance with cutting their shirts.

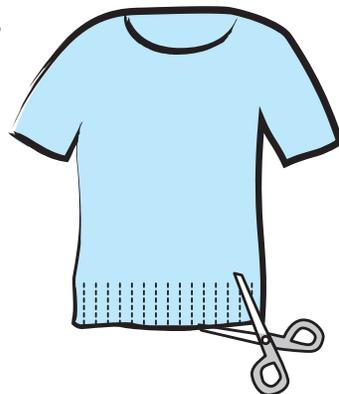
READY SET GO!

1. Turn the shirt inside out so any logos / designs stay inside.
2. Lay shirt out on a flat surface. Try to smooth wrinkles out of the fabric.

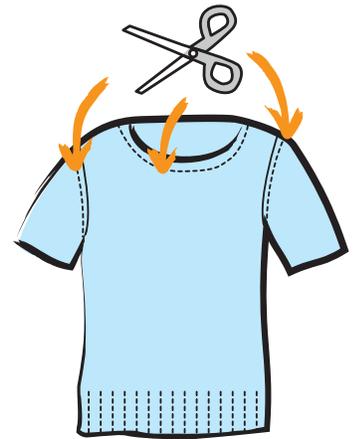
3. Take a ruler and measure about **three inches up from the bottom** of the shirt. Using chalk or a marker, **draw a straight line across the shirt** - three inches up.



4. Use scissors to **cut strips equal distances apart from the bottom of the shirt - up to the line**. When cutting, make sure to cut both the front and the back of the shirt at the same time. Be careful not to cut the strips off the shirt. Make sure the strips are **at least an inch and a half wide**.

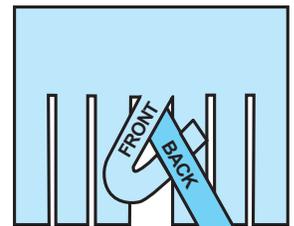


5. **Cut off the sleeves of the shirt - just outside of the seam**. Leave the seam that connects the body of the shirt to the sleeve intact. This seam will make your handles stronger.



6. **Cut a deeper neck into the shirt** so your bag has a bigger opening. Either free-hand cut or trace half of a paper plate around the neck to guide your cutting.

7. To seal the bottom of your bag you will need to **tie all those strips into knots**. Take one strip from the back and one from the front. Tie the two together. Make a few tight knots before moving on to the next pair of strips.



8. Once the bottom of the shirt has been tied up, it will be a little scrunched up. **Gently tug on both sides of the shirt to stretch the bottom back out**.

9. **Turn the shirt right-side out**. Your knots will be hidden in the inside of the bag.

10. **Enjoy your new bag!**

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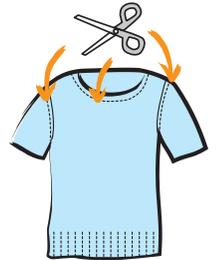


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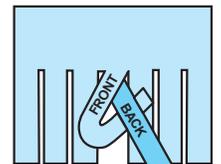


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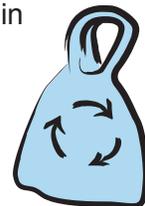


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