

Make a fish

Supplies:

- Clear plastic bottles (2-liter or smaller)
- Old newspaper cut into strips
- School glue
- Water
- Clear tape
- Paint (i.e., tempera, watercolor, acrylic)
- Marker and colored gel pens
- Construction paper or card stock
- Googly eyes (optional)
- Dowel rod (optional)

Directions:

Use your imagination to come up with ways to decorate your fish; other recyclable items can be used, such as egg cartons, metal washers, as well as sea shells, beads and buttons.

1. Use your plastic bottle to make the body of the fish. To make fish fins use card stock or construction paper to cut out the fins, then glue or tape them to the bottle.

Use a picture of a fish to help you draw different fins for your fish. You can also attach a quarter-inch dowel rod at this point as a way for you to hold your fish up, if you want it to be like a puppet.

2. You can either cover the bottle with paper mache so you can decorate it with paint or you can use a marker and gel pens.

To make a paper mache solution, mix glue and water to a milky consistency, but if you have real paper mache solution, you can use that instead. Use the strips of newspaper to cover the bottle. Dip the strips in the paper mache solution, clean off the excess and apply. You will probably want to do about two-to-three layers of paper mache. This process makes it easier to paint and decorate the bottle later.

Use the marker to draw fish scales and eyes on the outside of the 2-liter bottle. Cut off the flat end of your plastic bottle (have an adult help) and color the inside of the bottle with gel pens.

3. When the paper mache is dry (at least one hour drying time) you can begin to decorate your fish. You can paint it and leave it at that, or use the painted layer as a base to add decorations. You can add googly eyes, as well as other decorations.

Can you think of other things you can reuse for this project that might otherwise be thrown away? If you can, use them.