



REPURPOSING PLASTIC: MAKE YOUR OWN PLANT POTS

“Repurposing” is a smart way of reducing waste being sent to landfill. To repurpose something means to find a new and different use for it. For example, a torn towel might be repurposed as bedding for a pet, or an empty jar as a piggy bank.

For this activity, you will be repurposing plastic bottles or jars to make your own plant pots which can be used for living or picked plants.

See the pictures on the next page for some ideas.

MATERIALS YOU WILL NEED:

• Plastic bottle or jar	• Permanent marker	• Seeds	• Recycled or reused items to decorate eg. buttons, material off-cuts, foil
• Scissors	• PVA glue	• Soil	
• Scrap paper	• Paint	• Water	

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO:

- 1. Choose a plastic bottle or jar to make your plant pot. Make sure it is big enough to either grow seeds or tall enough to hold cut herbs or flowers.**
- 2. Draw a sketch of what you would like your plant pot to look like. Think about:**
 - Will your plant pot stand up or be lying down?
 - Will your pot be used indoors or outdoors?
 - How will you decorate your pot? (If outside think about waterproof decorating materials)
 - Where will the plants grow or sit in your pot?
 - Do you need to cut holes in your jar or bottle for drainage? Outline with a marker.
- 3. Ask an adult helper to cut out any holes you have outlined on your plant pot.**
- 4. Decorate your plant pot! Try to reuse items you can find around the house.**
- 5. Once dry, fill your bottle. Below is a list of some ideas for filling your plant pot:**

Indoor plant pots:

- Use your plant pot as a vase with water to keep herbs cut from the garden fresh.
- If growing indoor plants in your pot, ask an adult to help make holes in the base for water to drain out. Find an old saucer or another repurposed item to place under pot.

Outdoor plant pots:

- Fill with soil and plant herbs or seedlings. You might need to ask an adult to help make holes in the base of your bottle so water can drain out.

We hope you enjoy creating your own Repurposed Plastic Plant Pots!

Once you're done, you can share a photo to inspire others on our Facebook page or email to education@gorcc.com.au!



Teachers Notes & Curriculum Links

This resource has been designed to cater for students from Foundation to Level 6. The activity can be extended for older students by adding more criteria to the design brief (eg. need to include at least 3 repurposed materials). Plant pots can also be kept in classrooms or added to school gardens for seedling propagation.

VICTORIAN CURRICULUM LINKS

Foundation – Level 2

Geography	Elaborations
People use science in their daily lives (VCSSU041)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> monitoring information about the environment and Earth's resources, for example, rainfall, water levels and temperature identifying the ways humans manage and protect resources, for example, reducing waste and conserving water
Design & Technologies	Elaborations
Explore needs or opportunities for designing, and the technologies needed to realise designed solutions (VCDSCD018)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> identifying, gathering and playing with materials, components, tools and equipment to generate personal design ideas, for example designing a greeting card for a friend exploring opportunities around the school for designing solutions, for example how school play areas could be improved; how the school removes classroom waste and identifying opportunities to reduce, recycle and re-use materials; reviewing the school canteen menu to identify healthy food options and suggesting changes to promote good health discussing possible designed solutions based on experience and some research, for example asking adults for advice considering the importance of sustainability in designed solutions, for example comparing the durability of materials for a selected solution exploring which tools, equipment and techniques to use with selected materials

Levels 3 & 4

Design & Technologies	Elaborations
Evaluate design ideas, processes and solutions based on criteria for success developed with guidance and including care for the environment and communities (VCDSCD031)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> evaluating designed solution against negotiated criteria for success with class or group members evaluating, revising and selecting design ideas, based on criteria for success and including consideration of ethics, social values and sustainability evaluating the functional and aesthetic qualities of a designed solution reflecting on the sustainability implications of selected designed solutions comparing the amount of waste that would be produced from different design options and the potential for recycling waste reflecting on designed solutions to critique and assess suitability, sustainability and enterprise opportunities and determine how well they meet success criteria

Levels 5 & 6

Design & Technologies	Elaborations
Critique needs or opportunities for designing, and investigate materials, components, tools, equipment and processes to achieve intended designed solutions (VCDSCD038)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> exploring the steps involved in the process to satisfy a design brief, need or opportunity investigating how to minimise material use and manage waste by critiquing the environmental and social impacts of materials, components, tools and equipment