



Lesson Plan: #NoyesArtatHome

Recycled Plastic Charm Project

Overview:

Artists around the world are finding creative ways of reusing plastic. [Khalil Chishtee](#) utilizes plastic shopping bags to create sculptures of ominous figures. [Mbongeni Buthelezi](#) is a South African artist who paints using recycled plastics that melt together. A Danish company, [Precious Plastic](#), has developed a series of machines to recycle plastic waste. They make furniture, vessels, stationery, sculptures and more. It is important that we all try to buy less plastic and find creative and fun ways to reuse the plastic we throw away. Polystyrene is one kind of plastic that is especially dangerous for marine life. It will break down into small, microscopic particles that are ingested by many oceanic creatures. These are called **microplastics** and it is extremely difficult to remove them from the ocean because of their size.



Project Description:

Make beautiful charms and accessories out of take-out containers and plastic packaging!

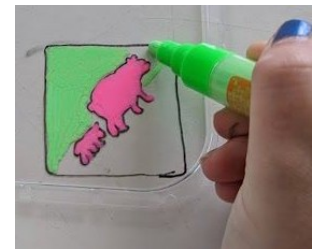
Supplies:

- #6 clear plastic
 - Look for the number 6 stamped on the packaging
 - The lid of a round foil container provides a large flat area great for drawing
- Permanent markers (Sharpies work well) or paint markers
- Scissors
- Old photographs or magazines
- Oven heated to 300 F (and a trusted adult)
- Optional: hole punch, earring hooks, pinbacks, clothespins etc.



Steps:

1. Gather your photographs, drawings, and magazines. Begin to choose images, words, and **shapes** that inspire you. **Shapes** are closed geometric figures like circles, squares, and hearts!
 - Larger words and photos are best because the final product will shrink by 50%
 - Multiple shapes can be combined into one drawing!
2. Place a large, flat piece of #6 plastic on top of any desired image.
3. With a permanent marker, draw onto the plastic. Trace the selected shape from the image underneath using **outlines**. The **outline** is a line that defines or emphasizes the outside of a shape and defines the details of a drawing.
4. Color the image on the plastic using colored permanent markers, or paint markers.
5. Cut out the shape you made with scissors
 - If you want to make jewelry, now is a good time to add a hole. Use a hole punch or small craft blade.
 - If the corners are sharp, use a nail file to sand the **edges**. The **edge** can be found at the outside limit of an object or surface. You can feel it in your hands, where you cut out the charm.
6. Place charms on a heatproof tray and place in the oven.
 - The plastic was stretched thin when it was produced. Heating the plastic allows the material to transform and shrink. It curls because the edges of the plastic heat up faster than the middle.
 - Watch the charms curl and then flatten out on their own in about 5 minutes.
7. Take out the tray and allow to cool.
8. Look at your finished charms. You can make some into earrings or glue them onto buttons or pins. Spruce up your room with custom charm clothespins!



Share pictures of your artwork with us! Don't forget to use [#NoyesArtatHome](https://www.instagram.com/NoyesArtatHome) and tag us with your completed project! We will be posting work by community artists on our social media pages. Check us out on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.

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