

## **Lesson at a glance**

Students will understand how to reuse something in their closet by turning an old t-shirt into a handy, reusable bag.

## **Grade**

K-6

## **Time**

30 minutes to 1 hour

## **Core Connections**

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Social Studies

- 4.1.c *Define and explain the difference between producing and consuming.*

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Social Studies

- 1.3.c *Describe ways to conserve and protect natural resources*

## **Materials**

- An old t-shirt
- Scissors
- Large safety pin

## **Background information**

Reducing, reusing, repurposing and recycling are four great ways to eliminate waste and protect our environment!

Waste, and how we choose to handle it, affects our world's environment, including the place that we live. The environment is everything around us including the air, water, land, plants, and human-made things. All plants and animals, including us, need a healthy environment. Practicing the 4-R's can help keep us all happy and healthy.

## **Activity**

1. Have your students lay the shirt flat on a table, and cut the sleeves off the shirt. They should make the cut extend a couple of inches below the bottom of the sleeve to make the handle "holes" large enough to put over their shoulder. (It will look like a tank top when they are finished).

2. Have them cut out the neck of the shirt. They can make the cut round, square or V-shaped. It needs to be just big enough to place objects in, but not so big it will all fall out.
3. Have them cut three strips of cloth from the sleeves. Each strip should be about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch wide. Cutting all the way around the sleeve will give you about the right length.
4. Stretch the strips to make them curl in.
5. Have the students cut three small slits (just big enough to slip in the safety pin), along the bottom hem of the shirt. The cuts should divide the width of the shirt into thirds.
6. Stick the safety pin through the end of one of the strips you made, and close the pin.
7. Have your students insert the pin, with strip, into one of the slits in the hem. Feeling for the pin, work the strip through the hem until you reach the next slit, then pull it out.
8. Have them remove the safety pin, and put it through the end of another strip. Repeat the process, pulling this strip through the next section of the hem.
9. Finally, have them pull a third strip through the remaining section.
10. Now, have them pull each string tight, gathering the bottom of the shirt together and tie the two ends together in a knot. Then have the students tie all of the knots together. This will form the bottom of their bag.
11. Their recycled, reused, and repurposed bag is now complete!

### Conclusion

1. Ask your students if they can think of other things in their closet they could repurpose or recycle?
2. How do they think repurposing these items might help the environment or other people?