

Caution: If children are to be permitted to use drills, they must wear protective eyewear and must be closely monitored. Drills must be on the lowest rotation setting. Generally children in grades 4 and up are quite capable of handling the drills, younger students will need help.

OTHER POSSIBLE BOTTLECAP PROJECTS:

Bottle cap picture frames (use discarded/donated frames & decorate with bottlecaps), lawn ornaments, jewelry, sculptures, mosaics, and Christmas ornaments.



Lakes Elementary School
Hartland, Michigan
Art Teacher, Shari Russano



BOTTLE CAP MURAL

Lesson Plan

By Sandra H. Berra, Michigan Green Schools

GRADE LEVEL: Kindergarten through 12th grade

OBJECTIVE: To involve students in creating a collaborative or individual mural using recycled materials.

CONTENT STANDARD #5: All students will recognize, analyze, and describe connections among the arts; between the arts and other disciplines; between the arts and everyday life.

INTRODUCTION: We throw away billions of bottle caps and container lids in this country every year. Plastic and glass containers are often recycled, but the caps and lids are generally thrown in the trash, or recycling centers won't accept them. This project is an excellent way for students to appreciate the "ART" of recycling.



A SCHOOL WIDE MURAL PROJECT
4th Grade Students at Lakes Elementary, Hartland, Michigan

PROCEDURE:

Collection: Students can post a notice in parent newsletter, set out bins near the school office for collection, bring lids/caps in from home, collect from neighbors and family, etc. Recycling centers or businesses may also save bottle caps/lids for student projects.

Image Design: Either in groups or individually, students design an image concerning our environment, endangered species of plant or animal life, fish, birds or insects. Possible themes include: the rainforest, butterflies and bugs, a walk through the woods, endangered wildflowers, or an aquarium scene. A famous artwork could also be used, such as Van Gogh's Sunflowers, one of Matisse's cut-out designs, folk art images, Native American design, etc. It may be helpful to enlist the aid of the school art teacher in this process. Murals can be large wall-sized works of art created by entire classes of students, or they can be smaller (ie, 20X30) and done in pairs or groups of 3-4 students. It is also necessary to decide where mural(s) will be placed when completed. Depending on the age of the students, the image can be a collage of different student images or one student image could be chosen.

Image Transfer: The base for the mural could be plywood, masonite, luan, foam core, plexiglass, or even heavy cardboard. It would be preferable if this background was recycled material. Check with parents to see if anyone has leftover material from a home improvement project. The final image could be gridded off and transferred to the background manually by older students, or the image could be projected by a document camera or an opaque projector and traced. The image is then painted with appropriate colors of latex or acrylic paint. Coloring with crayons is also a possibility.

Preparation: Once you have a good supply of bottle caps, they need to be washed and sorted. The lids can be soaked in big pails of water/dish detergent and rinsed off, or they can be put in mesh bags and swished around. Some lids have liner discs which will need to be removed with a screwdriver or palette knife. The caps & lids can then be spread out on large towels to dry. Children can then sort the caps/lids into different color containers.

Mural assembly: Students work together to place the caps within the image. They are either screwed on or glued down. Screwed caps are placed bottom side down and glued caps may be placed either bottom down or up, although bottom down will produce a more complete connection.

MATERIALS:

Recycled plastic and metal bottle/can/container caps and lids:

Caps of water, milk, beverages, soda, shampoo, detergent, lotion, salad dressing, ketchup, etc. Lids of spray cans, margarine containers, peanut butter, coffee, toothpaste, yogurt, coffee, etc. Discarded CD's and DVD's.

1/2" Plywood for background of larger murals where caps will be screwed on.
Masonite, 1/4" luan, foam core, plexiglass, or heavy cardboard background if mural is small and indoors. Background materials can be leftover pieces donated by parents or discarded in school trash.

Exterior primer for outdoor plywood mural (leftover from home project possibly)
Light colored latex base coat (can use donated leftover house paint) for smaller indoor mural

Paint rollers & roller pans

Black markers for drawing image (waterproof if used for outdoor mural)

Acrylic paints and leftover latex paints, various sized paint brushes

Opaque projector or document camera for enlarging (or use gridding technique)

#8 18x1/2" 1/4" self-drill screws to attach caps to plywood

Battery powered screwdrivers

Tacky glue or caulking compound to apply bottle caps for smaller murals

Protective goggles for working with drills

Plastic gloves for those working with glue or caulk

Disposable face masks for students painting primer or latex on mural background