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“Combining head and hands topics in one assignment always increases my pupils’ interest and motivation”

NO SEW SHIRT BAG

[Crafts] [Civic Education] [Mathematics] [Chemistry]



LESSON OBJECTIVES

This lesson shows you the value of a material, in this concrete the value of a t-shirt.

INTRO

Clothes are made from natural material or synthetic material. Most of our clothes are made from cotton. Cotton is a plant that gives a fluffy fiber that is used to make clothes. The plant grows in tropical and subtropical regions in South-America, Africa, Egypt and India. Other natural materials are wool (from sheep), linen (flax plant), hemp (plant).

Synthetic material that is used to make clothes is plastic: acrylic, polyester, nylon. This material creates plastic soup!

Our clothes are more valuable than we know! Say we buy a shirt for 20 euros. One t-shirt from cotton takes 2.700 liters of water. People on the other side of the world earn 5 cents per t-shirt, the factory 22 euro cents. The shop that sells the shirt earns 12 euro

per t-shirt. The trade earns 5 euro, the cotton costs 1,40 euro. Rest is administration, shipping and taxes.

So take care of your old t-shirt! In this lesson we want to show you how you can make something useful from an old t-shirt without needing a sewing machine. You make your own unique bag!

Materials needed:

- Sharp scissors for cutting fabric
- Old T- shirt

Step 1: Cut Off the Sleeves

Cut off the sleeves. To make the cuts even, fold the t-shirt in half and cut both sleeves at the same time. Cut the fabric just past the seam where the sleeves are sewn to the body of the shirt.

Step 2: Cut Off the Neckline

Take your scissors and free hand cut off the collar of the shirt. It is recommended to cut a slightly oval shape as opposed to a round one. Make sure the back and front of the shirt line up and are cut to the same distance. This step is where the straps of the tote bag are finished.

Step 3: Determine Depth of the Bag

Turn the shirt inside out. Decide how deep you want your bag to be and line it up. Anything under the line will be used to close the bottom of the bag.



Step 4: Cut the Fringe

Start by cutting the left and right side of the shirt from the bottom up to the tape line, separating the top half from the bottom half of the shirt. Next, use your scissors to cut fringe on the bottom of the bag. Cut both the back and the front layers of the shirt together so they line up. Cut the slits from the bottom of the shirt to the tape line and make them about 1,5cm inch apart.

Step 5: Tie the Fringe

Take the first pair of fringe and tie it into a knot. Then tie two more pairs. Grab one of the strands from 2 and tie it to one of the strands from 1. Next take the other strand from 2 and tie it to one of the strands from 3. Tie another pair of fringe next to 3 and then take the remaining strand from 3 and tie it to your new knot. Continue to do this for the whole bag. The purpose of tying the two strands of fringe together like this is to close the gap between fringe pairs.

Note: a pair of fringe means one piece of the front and one piece of the back of the shirt. They should sit one on top of another if the shirt was cut correctly.

Step 6: Finish Your Bag

Once all the fringe is tied, remove your tape and turn your bag inside out. Finish the bag by tying knots at the tops of the handles or tie some of the scrap fabric on as embellishments. If you want the fringe to be part of your bag, skip the part where you turn the t-shirt inside out.



REFERENCES OR WEBLINKS:

- shirt: <https://happiestcamper.com/how-to-make-a-no-sew-t-shirt-bag/>
- textiles & the environment: <https://www.tes.com/teaching-resource/sustainable-textiles-ppt-and-research-activity-6142932>
- teach ethical fashion: <https://www.theguardian.com/teacher-network/2017/apr/06/want-to-teach-ethical-fashion-to-kids-heres-how>
- lesson plan sustainable fashion: <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/579095c1b8a79bc4629250d1/t/5d8f23d095f70c20d4e45eed/1569661922239/Get+Redressed+Lesson+Plan.pdf>
- true cost of one t-shirt: <https://www.purnaa.com/post/what-is-the-true-cost-of-a-t-shirt>

FOLLOW UP AFTER ASSIGNMENT:

- You can pimp your shirt by drawing on it with markers or make an embroidery on it.
- Also you can try to make a 3D print on your shirt.
- Count the amount of t-shirts and blouses from your family and yourself
- Ask them how many they almost never wear
- Calculate how much % this is

