

Make your own reusable bag (no-sew)

Difficulty level: Easy (some adult assistance required)

Learning Objectives

1. Fun and easy way to extend the life of a product (t-shirt) and reduce another (plastic bags)
2. The Life-cycle of a t-shirt and Investigate the hidden waste involved with consumerism
3. Singlestream recycling and why plastic bags can't be recycled in the blue cart

Materials

- T-shirts
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Paint
- Paint brushes
- Cardboard – avoid paint transfer
- Image ideas
- Stencils/ image examples



Resources

Watch - The Life Cycle of a T-shirt: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BiSYoeqb_VY

Check out – Ins and outs of Curbside Recycling: <https://curbside.lethbridge.ca/your-blue-bin/plastic-bags>

Watch – No plastic bags but why?: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kwuBfgvfUC4>

Intro Activity-

Explore

Watch The Life Cycle of a T-shirt and answer the questions below:

1. How many bathtubs worth of water does it take to grow the cotton for one t- shirt?
2. T-shirt travels by plane, train and boat all over the world before it gets to you, because of this the clothing production accounts for what percentage of global carbon emissions?

Examine

Watch, "No plastic bags (in the blue cart) but why?" and answer the following questions:

1. In the video they name 3 reasons why plastic bags cannot go in the singles stream recycling, name the reasons:

Did you know.... Plastic bags are accepted at the recycling stations, click the link for more details:
<https://www.lethbridge.ca/living-here/Waste-Recycling/Pages/Recycling-Depots.aspx>



Activity - Craft Instructions:

Part 1

1. Turn your t-shirt inside out
2. Cut along the seam to remove the – Neckline, Sleeves and Bottom hem



3. Along the bottom of the shirt – measure strips that are 1" WIDE and from 5" to 10" DEEP.



Part 2

1. Hold the top of the strip and pull on the bottom of the strip, the material will curl creating the fringes



2. Tie the top strip to the bottom strip in a knot and repeat in reverse tie bottom strip to top strip.



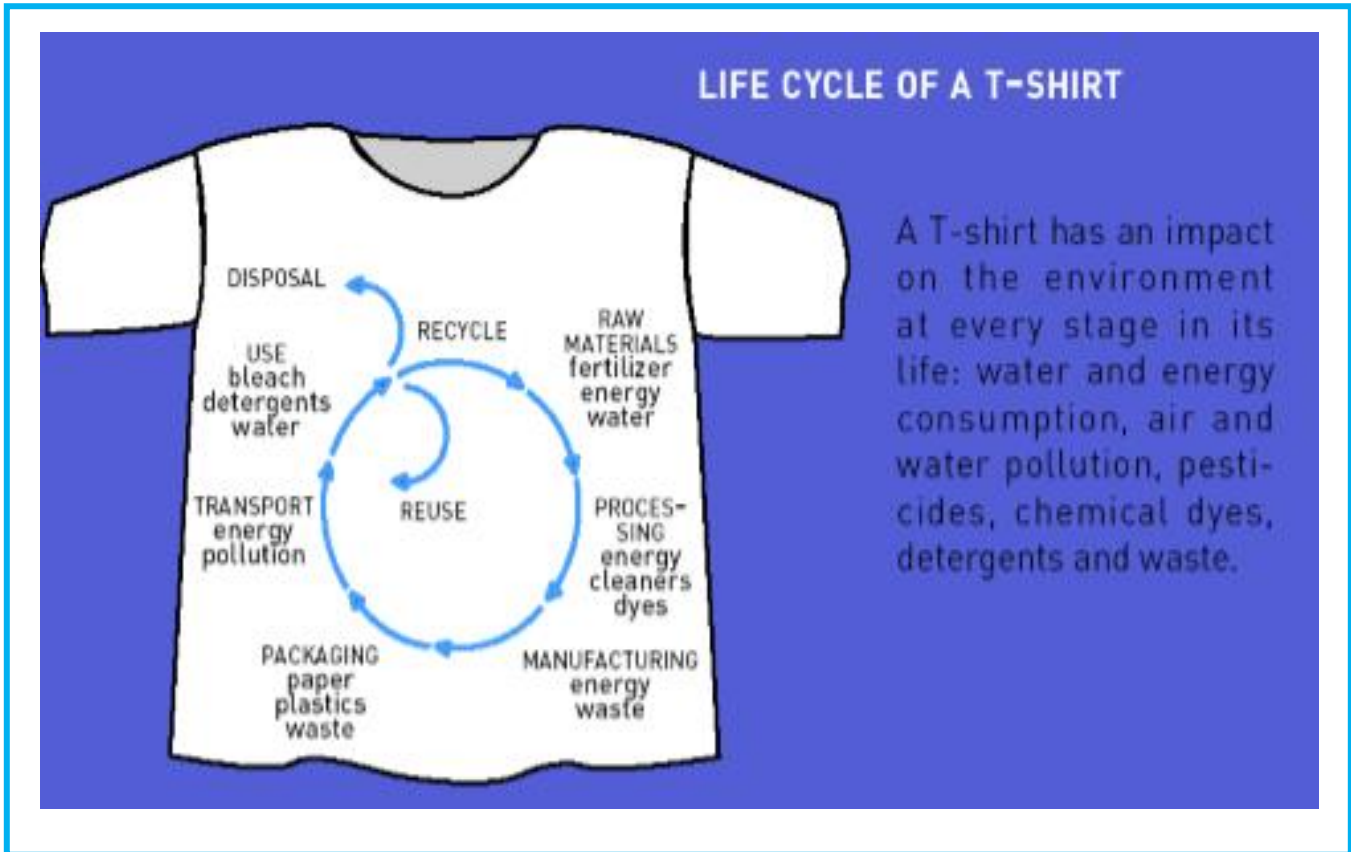
Part 3

1. Place a piece of cardboard in between the two layers of the shirt before painting
2. Paint chosen design on the shirt (lighter layers of paint will dry faster)



Enjoy your new reusable bag 😊

Conclusion Activity -



Take Action

Now that you know that products have life-cycles what other products in your home can you reduce or reuse?

Are you a recycling wiz...test your skills with the ins and outs sorting game!

<https://curbside.lethbridge.ca/tools/sorting-game>

