



How to...

DID YOU KNOW?

About 68% of the paper and cardboard used in the US gets recycled.



Jodi Levine, author of *Toilet Tube Treasury*

Make eco-friendly crafts

Get creative with materials you find around your home.

Are you passionate about the environment? Do you like being creative? If so, you might enjoy finding new uses for old things. "Giving items you might have thrown out or recycled a new purpose allows you to keep those items out of landfills and reduce your consumption of raw materials," Jodi Levine, a professional crafter, told *The Week Junior*. Levine specializes in creating art from items she finds around her home, and her new e-book, *Toilet Tube Treasury*, is full of crafts that start with a cardboard tube. (See three of them on the next page.) Here, she offers ideas on how you can come up with your own ideas for creating eco-friendly crafts.

Start a stash

Keep an empty basket or tray near your desk or art area. When you come across an interesting recycled item or piece of material, put it in the basket. You don't have to have a specific project in mind to do this. Look for items that have bright colors, a variety of shapes, and interesting images or words on them. Let your collection grow until you have materials in all sorts of shapes, sizes, and colors.

Build your creative muscles

The challenge of making something by using only recycled and upcycled items isn't easy, but doing so has big benefits. "To look at materials and see their

potential, what you can make out of them, sharpens your eyes and flexes your creative muscles," said Levine. For instance, you may only have certain colors of paint at home. To get the colors you were hoping for, you could blend the paints you have or add different colors with some of your recycled materials.

Do it your way

When you're working on a specific project with instructions, such as the crafts on the next page, you should always feel free to make the craft your own if you have another idea, said Levine. Or if a craft calls for materials you don't have at home, you could challenge yourself to find substitutions. Working within constraints, like not having the "right" materials, can lead to new ideas. The end result could be even more special.



Use supplies again

Many people like to save their art projects. But if a craft isn't interesting to you anymore, feel free to take it apart and use the items in a new way. This could mean painting over an old canvas with lots of white paint so you can make a new painting on top of it. Or you could take the buttons you glued onto a craft and use them for a different project. Remember to always save any leftover scraps from projects in your bin of recycled items. Inspiration can strike at any time!

4 items to recycle as craft supplies

Save these household items to use for future projects.



Bottle caps

Colorful tops from drinks, cleaning supplies, and small jars can be

used to make everything from tiny doll accessories (like a hat or a little frying pan) to add-ons for larger projects (like eyes for a cardboard animal or 3D collage elements).

Cardboard tubes

The cardboard tubes found inside toilet paper and paper towels can be used to create so many fun items.



From a pretend telescope to a cell phone holder to a painted snake, the ideas are endless.



Corrugated cardboard

This is the type of cardboard that most delivery boxes are

made from. The sturdy material is perfect for making 3D projects, such as a dollhouse or a stage for a performance by animal figurines.

Newspaper

You can use newspaper to make paper flowers or origami. For color, you can add a layer of fluid acrylic craft paint over the newspaper, just enough so you can still see the print through the paint. The paint will make the newspaper a little sturdier.

