



# RECYCLING FISH CRAFT

## TIME & AUDIENCE LEVEL

- 30 minutes
- Pre-K— 4th Grade

## VOCABULARY

Recycling  
Resources  
Pollution  
Fin  
Scales  
Gills

## MATERIALS

- Photos of fish
- Toilet Paper/Paper Towel Tubes
- Scissors
- Crayons, Markers, or paint
- Glue
- Assortment of recycled items (bottle caps/soda pop tabs, mailed flyers, food wrappers)
- Optional: map, computer, googly eyes

## SUMMARY

When you throw something away, where does it go? Some of it may end up in our rivers and oceans. We can reduce this source of pollution by recycling. Recycling helps reduce the need for raw materials and help to preserve natural resources.

Many animals, including us, depend on resources from the environment to survive. By recycling and reducing our consumption of new materials, we can keep ecosystems healthy.

## OBJECTIVES

- Child will appreciate how found and recycled objects can be turned into art
- Child will give an example of pollution and the importance of clean ecosystems
- Child will define features of a fish (fins, scales, gills)

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Water **pollution** (a substance, like chemicals, or a thing, like trash, introduced to the environment that has a harmful or poisonous effect) is often caused by humans and can have a negative impact on animals, like fish and turtles, living in water ecosystems.

There are over 27,900 species of fish living in marine and freshwater ecosystems. Most are vertebrates that have **fins** used to swim and steer, **gills** to breathe, and **scales** for protection. Fish are one any many aquatic animals sensitive to pollution.

In the United States, the average person creates about 4.51 pounds of waste everyday. Many items we consider trash can have a second life through recycling. **Recycling** is the process of converting waste into a reusable material or object, and it is one way to help protect the ocean.

## INTRODUCTION

Start by asking children if they can tell you where fish live and what they need to survive? Explain that fish need clean rivers, lakes and the ocean. Explain how sometimes our trash gets blown into sewers, rivers or sometimes even directly into the ocean. You can pull out a map and point out where you live and show them all the different rivers that connect you to the ocean. Explain recycling and how it can help the environment.

## CRITICAL THINKING QUESTIONS

Are there other things around the house we can recycle in a similar way?

What would happen if a shark ate a fish that ate pollution?

## GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE

- S1L1 Comparing and contrasting basic needs of animals
- S3L2 Obtain, evaluate and communicate information about the effects of pollution
- S4L1 Communicate information about the roles of organisms and the flow of energy within an ecosystem.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## SET UP

Make sure you have all of the materials ready out on a table. Start by flattening the tube. Explain by doing this activity they will be helping the ocean and ALL of the critters that depend on it.

## ACTIVITY PROCEDURES

1. Show children pictures of different types of fish. Ask how does a fish move in the water? Can they show you how a fish moves?
2. After flattening the tube, cut two triangles out near one end of the tube to make the tail and cut a half circle shape to round off the other side for the head.
3. Offer children different mediums to be creative with. This could be things like crayons, markers or paint. Invite children to help you sort through pre-selected waste that could be used as recycled decoration like mailed fliers, bottle caps, soda pop tabs, or food wrappers).
4. Decorate! Let the child be creative and make their own unique fish.

## WRAP UP/CONSERVATION MESSAGE

After children have finished, ask them if they can remember what it means to recycle. Ask if it feels good to have helped out our planet by recycling. Invite them to discuss what their favorite part is about the fish they created. Explain how good it is to recycle and tell them how they helped all the fish and other animals that live in the sea to have a better home.



FISH MADE FROM PLASTIC CHIP BAG, BOTTLE CAP, YOGURT TOP, CAN TAB, AND PAPER WASTE

