

## Stuff to Make and Do



Find me, 'Maddie Moate', on YouTube and watch all these activities online!

Phew! What a journey – we've travelled all around the world, and even into space! On our way, we've discovered **extraordinary** stories that show us just how inventive humans can be. All this stuff forms part of our everyday lives and, when used in a **sustainable** way, it can really help our planet.

I love finding and reading stories about the way things are made, but sometimes it's fun to make things myself, too! Here are ten super ideas for things you can make using recycled and easy-to-get materials. Each activity has been inspired by one of the stories in this book. Let these ideas be your guide, but why not tweak them and come up with your own designs? Who knows? Maybe you'll invent something amazing!

Happy tinkering!

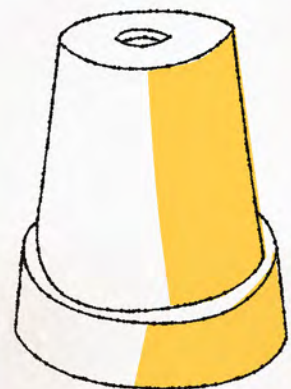


### Build a Bumblebee 'n' B

Inspired by Honey Bee Fences

**Stuff you need:** Clay pot with drainage hole, moss, dry grass and stones.

1. Find a clay plant pot with a drainage hole in the bottom. Put a piece of moss at the bottom of the pot. This will help to keep everything inside dry if it rains.
2. Next, loosely stuff some dried grass into the pot. Add just the right amount so that when you turn the pot over, the piece of moss drops a little to make space for a bumblebee to crawl in.
3. Choose a warm sheltered location, such as the foot of a hedge or a quiet corner of the patio.
4. Turn the pot upside down and fix it in place. You could do this by pushing it down a few centimetres into the soil or surrounding it with moss and stones to hold it down.
5. In the autumn and early winter, queen bumblebees search for warm and dry holes to rest in. Your Bumblebee 'n' B could be the perfect spot! Remember always to observe bees from afar and don't get too close.



### Craft your own recycled paper

Inspired by Elephant-Poo Paper

- Stuff you need:** Old paper, bowl, water, tea towel and rolling pin.
1. Get some recycled paper and tear it into teeny-tiny pieces.
  2. In a bowl, mix the pieces of paper with some water. Squish it all together until it's really mushy.
  3. Squeeze the mushy mixture into balls of pulp.
  4. Place your pulp ball on a flat surface and put a tea towel over the top.
  5. Use a rolling pin to flatten the pulp and squeeze out the excess water.
  6. Leave the pulp to dry and – ta-da – you have made your own paper!



### Construct a compost bin

Inspired by Worm Tea Compost

**Stuff you need:** Old plastic bottle, scissors, pin, tray, brown/green waste, spray water bottle and kitchen towel.

1. Find an old plastic bottle, give it a wash and peel off any labels.
2. Ask a grown-up to help you cut the top off the bottle and use a pin to poke some holes in the bottom for drainage.
3. Place the bottle on a plastic tray and add a layer of brown waste – like shredded paper, torn-up egg cartons and crunchy old leaves. Spray the brown layer with water till it's damp, but not too soggy!
4. Now add a layer of green waste – like vegetables, food scraps and grass cuttings.
5. Place the tray and composter somewhere warm such as a sunny windowsill. Every day give it a stir and add a little more water to help the **micro-organisms** break the contents down into compost.
6. When you're not mixing the compost, lay a sheet of kitchen towel over the top to keep it nice and damp.
7. Continue to add layers of brown and green waste as days go on, but remember it will take time for everything to decompose, so be patient.
8. When the layers have transformed into compost, you can add it to the soil around your growing plants to give them a healthy snack packed with nutrients!



### Tie a T-shirt bag

Inspired by T-shirt Trends

**Stuff you need:** Old T-shirt and scissors.

1. Find a well-loved T-shirt that won't be worn any more.



2. Ask a grown-up to help you cut off the sleeves and neckline with some scissors. This will form the opening and handles of your bag.



3. Cut 5 cm slits along the bottom of the shirt at the front and back, so it looks like it has a fringe along the bottom.



4. Take the front and back of each strip and tie them together in tight knots.



5. If there are big gaps between the knots, tie some of them together to close them up!

6. Leave the dangly tassels hanging or turn the bag inside out to hide them. Your bag is ready to use!

