Max Bojue Wang

SECOND LIFE

TURNING TRASH INTO BEAUTY

Fighting for an artistic reinterpretation of our environmental waste

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OUR GOAL

At Trash to Beauty, we are dedicated to transforming waste into wonder through the creative efforts of students. In a rapidly urbanizing China, where environmental challenges are increasingly pressing, we recognize the urgent need for innovative solutions that promote sustainability and cultural creativity.

Our mission is to inspire students to rethink waste by repurposing discarded materials into meaningful art projects that reflect the rich cultural heritage of China. We aim to educate and engage young minds in the art of upcycling, encouraging them to see the beauty and potential in items often deemed worthless.

Through workshops, exhibitions, and collaborative community events, we provide a platform for students to explore their creativity while fostering environmental consciousness. By connecting local schools, artisans, and environmental organizations, we strive to build a vibrant community that champions sustainable practices and celebrates the transformative power of student-led art.

We envision a future where creativity meets responsibility, and where every piece of trash is seen as an opportunity for artistic expression. Together, we can empower students to turn their collective waste into extraordinary works of art that not only beautify our surroundings but also contribute to a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable China.

GLOBE DISPLAY

SUGGESTIONS FOR WHAT YOU'LL NEED

Base Materials:
1. Balloon (for shaping the globe)
2. Paper Mâché (made from newspapers or other paper)
3. Plastic Bottles (for a sturdier structure)
4. Cardboard (for additional support or a base)
5. Egg Cartons (for texture)
6. Soda Cans (cut and shaped for land masses or decorative elements)
7. Old T-shirts or Fabric Scraps (for texture and color)
8. Used Masks (for texture or to represent features like clouds or pollution)
9. Tin Foil (for shiny ocean surfaces or to create raised features)
10. Old Light Bulbs (can be used for decorative elements)

Decorative Materials:
1. Paint (acrylic or washable for coloring land and water)
2. Markers or Crayons (for detailing countries and labels)
3. Old Maps or Atlas Pages (to cut out and glue onto the globe)
4. Plastic Packaging (like bubble wrap or clamshell containers for texture)
5. Used Gift Wrap or Wrapping Paper (for colorful designs)

Adhesives and Tools:
1. Glue (white glue, glue sticks, or hot glue)
2. Scissors (for cutting materials)
3. Paintbrushes (for applying paint or glue)
4. Pencil (for sketching outlines)

Finishing Touches:
1. Clear Sealant (optional, to protect the paint)
2. String or Wire (to hang the globe)
3. LED Lights (optional, for illumination)

Optional:
1. Natural Items (like leaves or sand) to represent different terrains.
2. Recycled CDs or DVDs (for shiny ocean surfaces).
3. Plastic Cutlery or Straws (for structural elements or decorations).

These materials can add diversity and creativity to your globe project while emphasizing the importance of reusing and repurposing trash!

HOW TO MAKE THIS?

01   PREPARE THE BASE

Inflate a balloon to the desired size of your globe. This will
serve as the mold.

If using plastic bottles or cardboard, cut them into pieces
that can be shaped around the balloon for added structure.

02   CREATE THE PAPER MACHE

Tear newspapers into strips. Mix a glue solution (1 part
water to 1 part glue) in a bowl.

Dip each strip into the solution, removing excess glue,
and layer them over the balloon. Cover the entire
surface, leaving the knot of the balloon exposed.

Allow it to dry completely (this may take several hours
or overnight).

03   ADD STRUCTURE

Once the paper mâché is dry, carefully pop the balloon
and remove it.

Use egg cartons, soda cans, or plastic bottles to create
raised features for continents or islands. Attach these
with glue.

04   DECORATE THE GLOBE

Cover the entire globe with a layer of white paint if desired, letting it dry.

Use old maps, fabric scraps, or wrapping paper to cut out shapes for continents. Glue these onto the globe.

Use markers or crayons to label countries and add details.

05   INCORPORATE TEXTURES

Use tin foil for shiny ocean surfaces and to represent different textures. You can also incorporate used masks to add a unique touch.

Experiment with placing pieces of used gift wrap or plastic packaging for more visual interest.

06   FINISH THE GLOBE

Once all decorations are added and dry, apply a clear sealant if desired for protection.

Use string or wire to hang your globe, or place it on a stand made from cardboard or other sturdy materials.

JUICEBOX CHRISTMAS TREE

ALSO POSSIBLE WITH SODA CANS!

SUGGESTIONS FOR WHAT YOU'LL NEED

Base Structure:
1. Juice Boxes (empty and cleaned)
2. Soda Cans (empty and cleaned)
3. Cardboard (for the base or support)
4. Wooden Dowels or Skewers (optional, for stability)

Decorations:
1. Green Paint or Green Tissue Paper (to cover the boxes or cans)
2. Colored Paper or Wrapping Paper (for decorations)
3. Markers or Paint Pens (for drawing designs)
4. Glue (hot glue or craft glue) (to secure items together)
5. Ribbons or String (for bows and hanging decorations)
6. Sequins, Glitter, or Stickers (for added sparkle)
7. Cotton Balls or Fake Snow (for a snowy effect)

Finishing Touches:
1. Star or Ornament for the Top (made from cardboard, paper, or other materials)
2. LED Fairy Lights (optional, for illumination)

Tools Needed:
1. Scissors (for cutting decorations)
2. Paintbrushes (if using paint)
3. Pencil (for sketching designs)

This list will help you gather everything needed to create a festive Christmas tree from recycled materials! Enjoy your crafting!

25 S 30 CM

Candy wrapper X

Drink boxes x 21 (or more)

~ Color key
- 蜜桃茶
- 茉莉蜜茶
- 豆奶、苹果汁 牛奶
- 椰子豆奶
- 巧克力豆奶
- 柠檬糖纸
- 苹果汁

HOW TO MAKE THIS?

01   PREPARE THE BASE

Choose a sturdy cardboard base for your tree. Cut it into a large triangle or square to support your tree structure.

02   ARRANGE THE JUICEBOXES OR SODA CANS

Start by stacking juice boxes or soda cans in a pyramid shape on the cardboard base. Use more boxes or cans at the bottom and taper them as you go up to create the tree shape.

If needed, use wooden dowels or skewers to secure the boxes or cans together for added stability. Push them through the centers of the boxes or cans.

03   SECURE THE STRUCTURE

Once you're satisfied with the arrangement, glue the boxes or cans to the base and each other to hold everything in place. Allow the glue to dry completely.

04   DECORATE THE TREE

Paint the juice boxes or soda cans green, or cover them with green tissue paper. Or, if you're happy with the colors they way they are, no need to paint! Allow to dry.

Cut out shapes from colored paper or wrapping paper to create ornaments. Glue these onto the tree.

Use markers or paint pens to add additional designs or details.

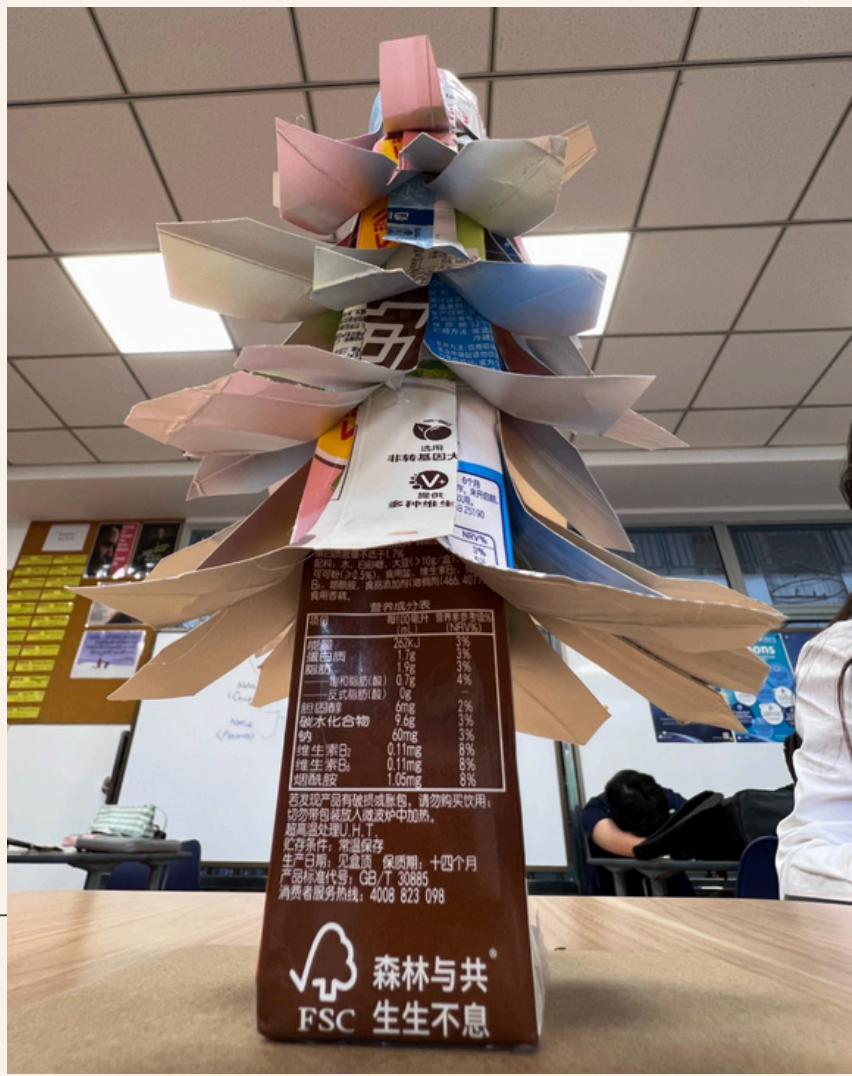# HOW TO MAKE THIS?

05   ADD TEXTURE AND SPARKLE

Glue on ribbons, string, sequins, glitter, or stickers for extra decoration.

If desired, glue cotton balls or fake snow around the base of the tree or on the tree itself for a wintery effect.

06   CREATE THE TREE TOPPER

Make a star or ornament from cardboard, paper, or other materials. Decorate it as you like.

Attach it securely to the top of the tree using glue.

REPURPOSED PILLOWS

SUGGESTIONS FOR WHAT YOU'LL NEED
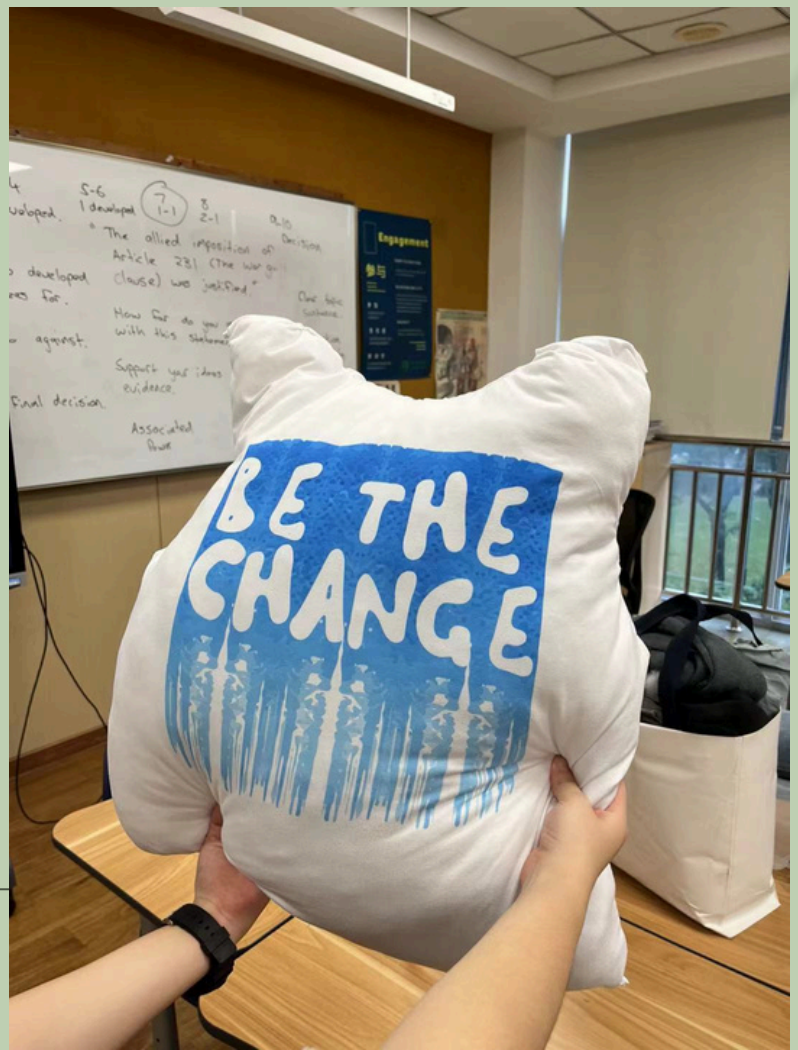
Main Materials:
1. Used T-Shirts (clean and in good condition)
2. Stuffing Material (such as polyester fiberfill, old pillows, or other fabric scraps)

Optional Materials:
1. Fabric Glue (for no-sew options)
2. Sewing Machine or Needle and Thread (for sewing options)
3. Scissors (for cutting t-shirts)
4. Measuring Tape (to measure pillow size)
5. Pins or Clips (to hold fabric together while sewing)
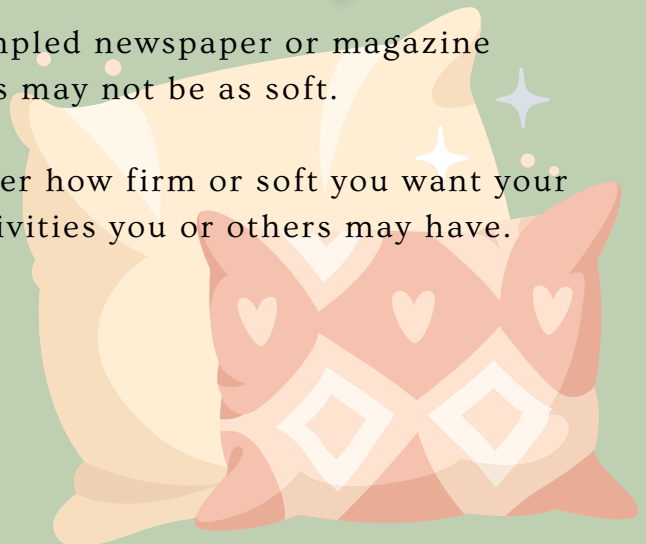
Finishing Touches:
1. Decorative Embellishments (such as fabric paint, patches, or appliqués)

ALTERNATIVE STUFFING MATERIALS

1. Old Pillows:
   - You can cut open old, unused pillows to repurpose the stuffing inside.
2. Fabric Scraps:
   - Use leftover fabric pieces from other sewing projects. Cut them into smaller pieces for a softer feel.
3. Cotton Balls or Cotton Batting:
   - These can provide a soft, fluffy stuffing and are readily available at craft stores.
4. Foam Scraps:
   - If you have old foam (from cushions or mattresses), you can cut it into smaller pieces for stuffing.
5. Rice or Beans:
   - For a weighted pillow, consider using dried rice or beans. This can give your pillow a unique texture and support.
6. Sawdust or Wood Shavings:
   - If you have access to clean sawdust, it can be used as stuffing, though it may not be as comfortable.
7. Shredded Plastic Bottles:
   - Clean, shredded plastic can create a firm pillow. Make sure to use non-toxic, clean plastics.
8. Synthetic Fillers:
   - Products like polyester fiberfill or batting are great for a soft, plush feel and can often be found at fabric stores.
9. Wool or Down:
   - If you prefer natural materials, wool or down feathers can offer excellent insulation and comfort.
10. Newspaper or Old Magazines:
    - For a more eco-friendly approach, crumpled newspaper or magazine pages can serve as stuffing, though this may not be as soft.

When selecting your stuffing material, consider how firm or soft you want your pillow to be, as well as any allergies or sensitivities you or others may have.

HOW TO MAKE THIS?

01   SELECT YOUR T-SHIRTS

Choose the t-shirts you want to repurpose. Consider using shirts with interesting designs or colors that will make your pillows unique.

02   PREPARE THE T-SHIRTS

Lay the t-shirt flat on a clean surface.

Cut off the sleeves and neckline if desired, and cut the shirt along the sides to create a large flat piece of fabric.

03   CUT THE FABRIC

If you want a specific pillow size, use a measuring tape to measure and mark the desired dimensions on the t-shirt fabric (e.g., 16"x16" for a square pillow).

Cut two identical pieces from the t-shirt fabric for the front and back of the pillow.

04   ASSEMBLE THE PILLOW

Place the two fabric pieces together with the printed sides facing each other (this will hide the seams).

If using fabric glue, apply it around the edges, leaving a small opening (about 4-6 inches) on one side for stuffing. If sewing, pin or clip the edges to hold them in place.

05   STUFF THE PILLOW

Turn the fabric pieces inside out through the opening so that the printed side is now on the outside.

Fill the pillow with your chosen stuffing material, ensuring it's evenly distributed. Adjust the firmness to your preference.

06   CLOSE THE OPENING

If using fabric glue, apply glue to the edges of the opening and press them together. Allow it to dry according to the glue instructions.

If sewing, sew the opening closed using a needle and thread or a sewing machine. Use a straight stitch for a secure closure.

07   ADD EMBELLISHMENTS (OPTIONAL)

Get creative! Use fabric paint, patches, or additional t-shirt pieces to decorate your pillow as desired.

SEA TURTLE DISPLAY

SUGGESTIONS FOR WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Trash items: Plastic bottles, caps, old CDs, cardboard, fabric scraps, bottle tops, paper, etc.
- Base: A sturdy piece of cardboard or a wooden board for the display base.
- Adhesive: Glue, tape, or a hot glue gun.
- Tools: Scissors, pliers (for metal items), and possibly a craft knife.
- Paint (optional): For adding color.

HOW TO MAKE THIS?

01   RESEARCH AND DESIGN

Look at pictures of sea turtles to understand their shape and features.

Sketch a design on paper to plan your layout.

02   CREATE THE TURTLE BODY

Use a large plastic bottle or a cardboard piece as the main shell.

Shape the head, flippers, and tail using plastic or cardboard. You can also use old fabric for a softer look.

03   ADD DETAILS

Use bottle caps for the eyes and scales.

Old CDs can be cut and used for added texture on the shell.

Fabric scraps can be used to create colorful patterns or details.

04   ASSEMBLE THE TURTLE

Attach the head, flippers, and tail to the body using glue or tape.

Secure smaller pieces and details where needed.

05   CREATE THE DISPLAY

Place the turtle on your base.

Add other elements like ocean waves made from blue fabric or additional trash items to create a beach scene.

06   FINISHING TOUCHES

Paint or decorate any areas that need color.

Ensure everything is securely attached.

07   EDUCATIONAL COMPONENT (OPTIONAL)

Include a small sign with facts about sea turtles and the impact of ocean pollution.

TRASH TO BEAUTY

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Max Wang from Y12, bird, marine and theatre enthusiast that is currently leading his school's Green Origin Club.

I have worked on weekly pickups, annual earth day events with nearby kindergarten students, purifying the school moat, planning for an art exhibition made of trash, bird nest making and much more!