

Junk Sculpture

Aim:

- For participants to explore a theme through creating sculpture using household waste.

Materials:

- Plain paper
- A selection of old magazines/newspapers
- Scissors
- Glue
- Sticky tape
- Paints
- A selection of clean household rubbish (provided by facilitator and/or participants) which may include toilet roll cardboard inserts; plastic bottles; cardboard boxes; food packaging etc.
- Copies of the Activity Review Sheet (p.164)

Maximum Number of Young People:

- 12

Time needed:

- From 90 minutes to 2-3 sessions

Method:

- Explain to the participants that they are going to create a sculpture from the raw materials provided.
- Participants should choose to work in groups or individually.
- You may want to give your participants a theme for their sculpture, or you may want them to have a free rein with it. This activity fits in well with the theme of Environment, so you may choose this as the theme for sculptures. If you have participants with little confidence in creating a specific shape, it may be better to suggest an abstract sculpture, which could still reflect a theme.
- Participants should use any of the materials provided to create their sculptures, gluing pieces together to create a larger shape. Once their sculptures take shape, they should be encouraged to paint them, to further enhance their work.

- Once their sculptures are complete (this could take a few sessions), participants should present them to the group, explaining their processes and thoughts behind their work.

Top Tip:

- You might want to ask participants to bring in their own materials to recycle for this session in advance, to further highlight that a piece of art can be made from unwanted materials. This is a good way of opening a discussion about waste, recycling and the environment.

Portfolio Evidence:

- Photos of raw materials before the workshop
- Photos of participant creating their sculpture
- Photos of the finished sculpture
- Sketches or plans of the sculpture
- Notes from the planning of the presentation
- Completed Activity Review Sheet

Taking this activity further:

When the group has completed their junk sculptures, they may want to think about other art forms that may use recycled materials. This could lead to young people thinking about a project idea based on the theme of environment, and exploring the project plan to bring it to life.

Another activity that fits in with this theme is the Junk Percussion Workshop (p.122).

Transferable Skills:

Through this activity, participants will develop their creativity, concentration and communication skills.

Linking to the Youth Work Curriculum:

This activity explores environmental education (Participation and Inclusion), working in groups (Personal and Social Development) and craft and design (Creativity and Challenge).