

'Lanterns from the Sea'

Art Construction Project



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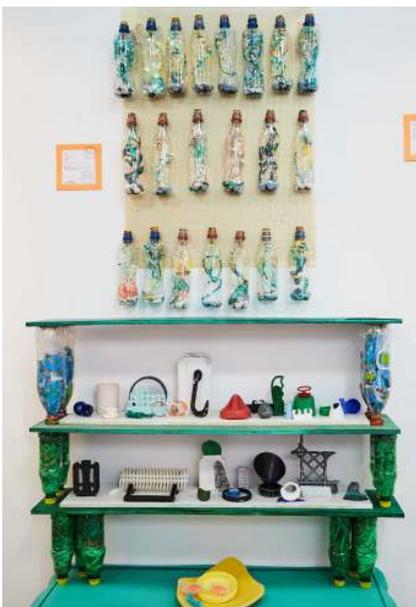
Aim: 'The Lanterns of the Sea' installation helps raise children's environmental awareness and care by using recycled materials, such as single use plastics. By constructing an art installation using mixed media the project encourages discussion and forming solutions to reduce and reuse plastics.

Discussion: As part of the project, discuss the facts about single use plastics and its impact on the ocean. What can be done to raise awareness and care for your local seashore and ocean environment?

The Guardian newspaper in the UK posted an article that: '**A million bottles a minute: the world's plastic binge is as dangerous as climate change**'. It revealed that this number will increase by 20% by 2021.

There are a number of organisation's and people working to help reduce the use of single-use plastics and its impact on the ocean. These include individuals, school groups and communities cleaning beaches to larger organisation's such as Sky Ocean Rescue, raising awareness about plastics in the ocean through the media creating positive change!

Activity: The following activity can be used to help raise awareness and engage with others about recycling and reusing single use plastics.



The children of Moveen NS, making and enjoying their 'Lanterns from the Sea' installation for the 'Circular Revolution' Exhibition 2019.



Materials Required - 'Lanterns from the Sea' - Construction Project



1 x clean and dry single use plastic bottle for each child, *narrow top* remove labels



Mixed pebbles - 1-2 cm size - can be sourced free from local shore.



Mixed empty shells from your seashore trips washed and dry.



Optional: funnels - maybe make your own!



Posca or Sharpie Pens for decoration of outside of bottle



Marine plastic rope/string (washed at 60deg and dry) from the seashore



Fine gauge wire (if making lighting display)



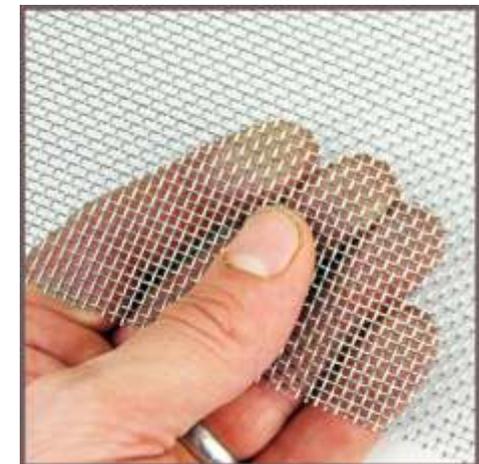
Bottle top battery powered led lights one per child



Rubber bands one per child

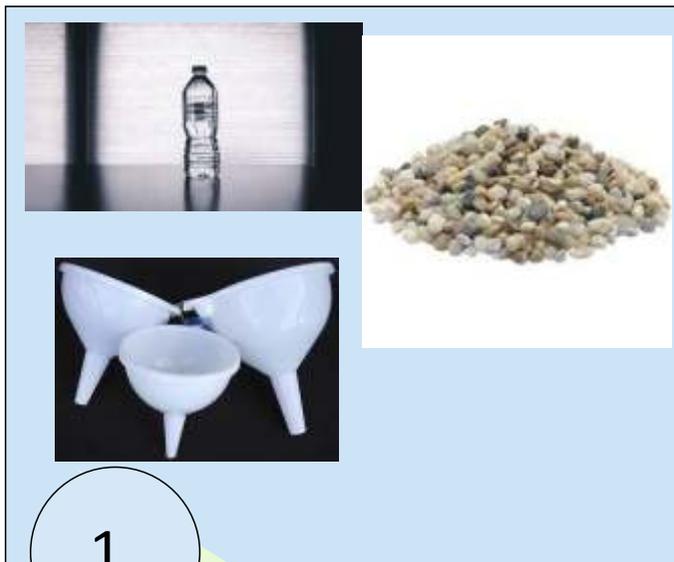


Very small 's' hooks if making display



Fine gauge fireguard mesh if making an installation display

Step by Step creation of 'Lanterns from the Sea' - Creating with mixed materials



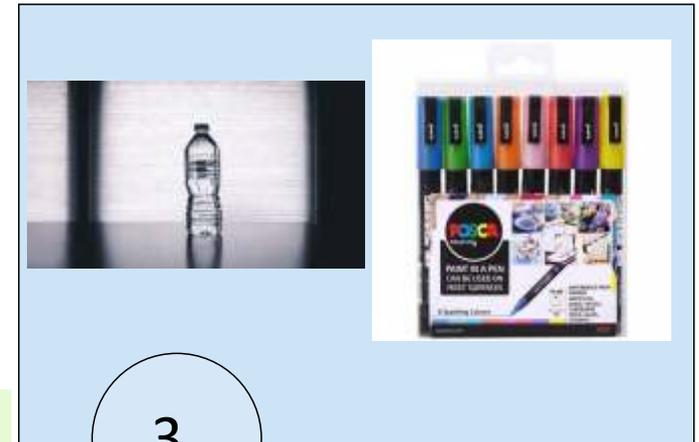
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Select a clean and dry narrow topped plastic bottle, remove any labelling, and using a funnel, add (1-3) cm of small gravel/pebbles to base of bottle..to give it weight and decoration.



2

Then select a small number of your beautiful seashell collection ..remember shells must be small to fit through top of bottle. If you have fancy beads or other small decorative items, you can add these as well or instead of the shells.



3

Then using Sharpies or Posca or other 'permanent' pens, create a detailed design on the outside of the bottle. Don't cover it with black though, or the light won't show through!



Step by Step creation of 'Lanterns from the Sea' - Creating with mixed materials



4

Set the bottle aside. Then choose a marine plastic string and cut it to approx 1.5 times the length of the bottle. Choose a couple of more shorter strings in different colours/textures.



5

Take one bottle top led light per child. *Very carefully* unwind the wire light string to get to the very end of the string. Do not let the led light string get mangled. *Very careful* with this.



6

Then taking your chosen plastic string (longest piece), wrap the wire led light around it, starting at the furthest away part of the led light (from the Bottle top), and one end of the plastic string. Wrap it around densely, as there is lots of wire and less string. Move it up and down and add in the extra short pieces of marine string, so that it can make 'limbs' to add to the interest of the finish work. Work your way close to the bottle top, then leave some spare led light wire at the top.



Step by Step creation of 'Lanterns from the Sea' - Creating with mixed materials



7

The bottle caps are capable of 'falling in' to the bottle as they were not designed for plastic bottles ..even the narrow topped ones. To prevent this.. Wrap a rubber band tightly beneath the light switch of the lights. This adds thickness and prevents the light falling into the bottle. Remove the light tab beneath switch and test your light!



8

Now, you can carefully install your led light wrapped in marine plastic into your bottle. Take good care with this. There is no rush. The bottle cap with rubber band installed will settle on top, and you can now switch on your lantern.



9

If you are progressing to make a classroom 'installation' of all your lights hung as a 'lighting installation' you will need to take the following steps. If not enjoy your light, and don't leave them on all the time as the battery will run out. Remember it is possible to acquire a solar powered version of these lights, but not yet available in Ireland (2020).



Step by Step creation of 'Lanterns from the Sea' - Creating with mixed materials

Hook made with wire



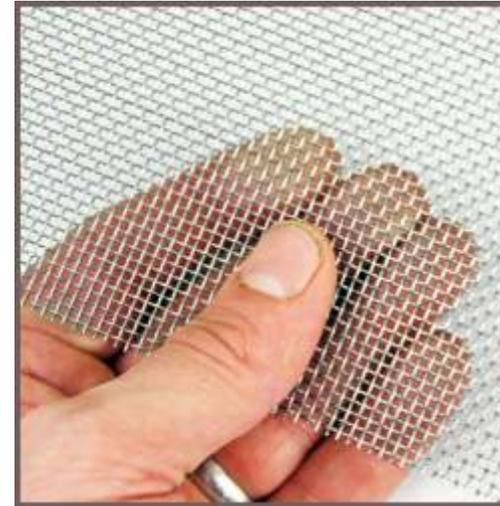
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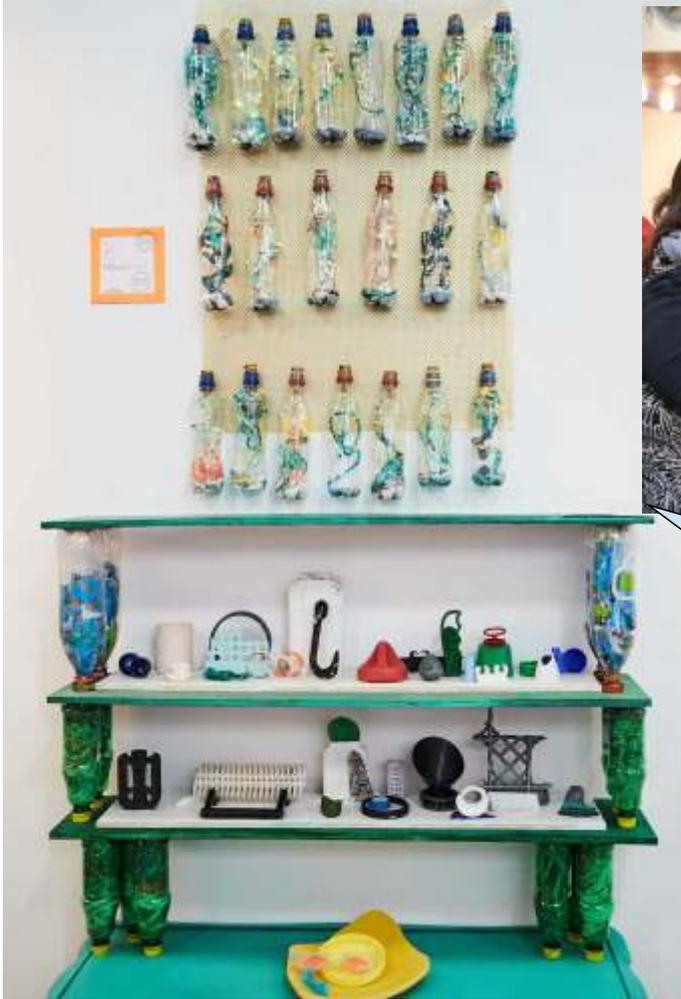
In order to 'hang up' your lanterns, you will need to take a piece of very fine gauge wire, cut into a length of approx 25cm, fold into half and then at the bend of the half way point, make a small hook approx 5mm wide and twist the wire around it two or three times, then, attach to the bottle just below the wide coil at the end of the cork and twist the two ends of the wire together to make a tight fit with the bottle.. You are now ready to hang the lantern up.



12

Taking a small 's' hook', hook it onto the wire loop you have just created and hang it onto the mesh wire. Note: instead of buying mesh wire, you could use an old fire guard to hang your bottles.. Enjoy your creation!





The installation being admired by Dr. Noirin Burke of the Explorers Education Programme and school Principal of Moveen NS.

12/12 I'd say!!!

The 'Lanterns' from the Sea' Installation looking great at the Circular Revolution Exhibition 2019. Can you spot what else you can make with single use plastic bottles?





What are other potential uses of single use plastic bottles, without having to recycle them and increase carbon footprint?
What are your thoughts and ideas based on this construction project.
Use the cloud bubbles to write your thoughts...

1

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