

Activity 4: Trash to Treasure

Concept

To illustrate the concept of waste reduction through reuse.

Objective

To teach students how to minimize waste output by finding creative ways to reuse items that they would otherwise put in the garbage.

Activity Description

Students will take an old household item and find a creative way to use it again. They can take it apart and move the compartments around, add other components and materials to it, or simply use it in a way that is different from its original purpose. This activity can be assigned as an individual, pair, or group project. Teachers can pre-determine the item that the students will reuse and provide them with the materials they need, or the students can be allowed to choose their own item and source their own materials.

Teachers may also schedule some time for the students to present their final product. Teachers can ask the students to prepare a simple presentation, or incorporate a creative activity wherein the students can create a poster, TV/radio commercial, magazine ad or other form of advertising for their product.

Materials Needed

- Any old household item
- Any materials required for the project
- Trash to Treasure Handout
- Trash to Treasure Ad - Handout

Duration

At teacher's discretion.

Skills Used

Problem solving
Research

Trash to Treasure – Handout

Every year, British Columbians put tonnes of stuff in the landfills – everything from old furniture and clothes to broken binders and pencils. However, if we find a way to **reuse** the items we want to throw away, we could reduce the amount of garbage we throw out each year.



The Challenge

Take an old item from home (or the item that your teacher gives you) and find a creative way to reuse it. **Remember:** the idea is to keep old items out of the garbage by finding another way to use them.

Try to make your end product **practical** so that you can actually use it (rather than leave it sitting somewhere, collecting dust).



Need ideas?

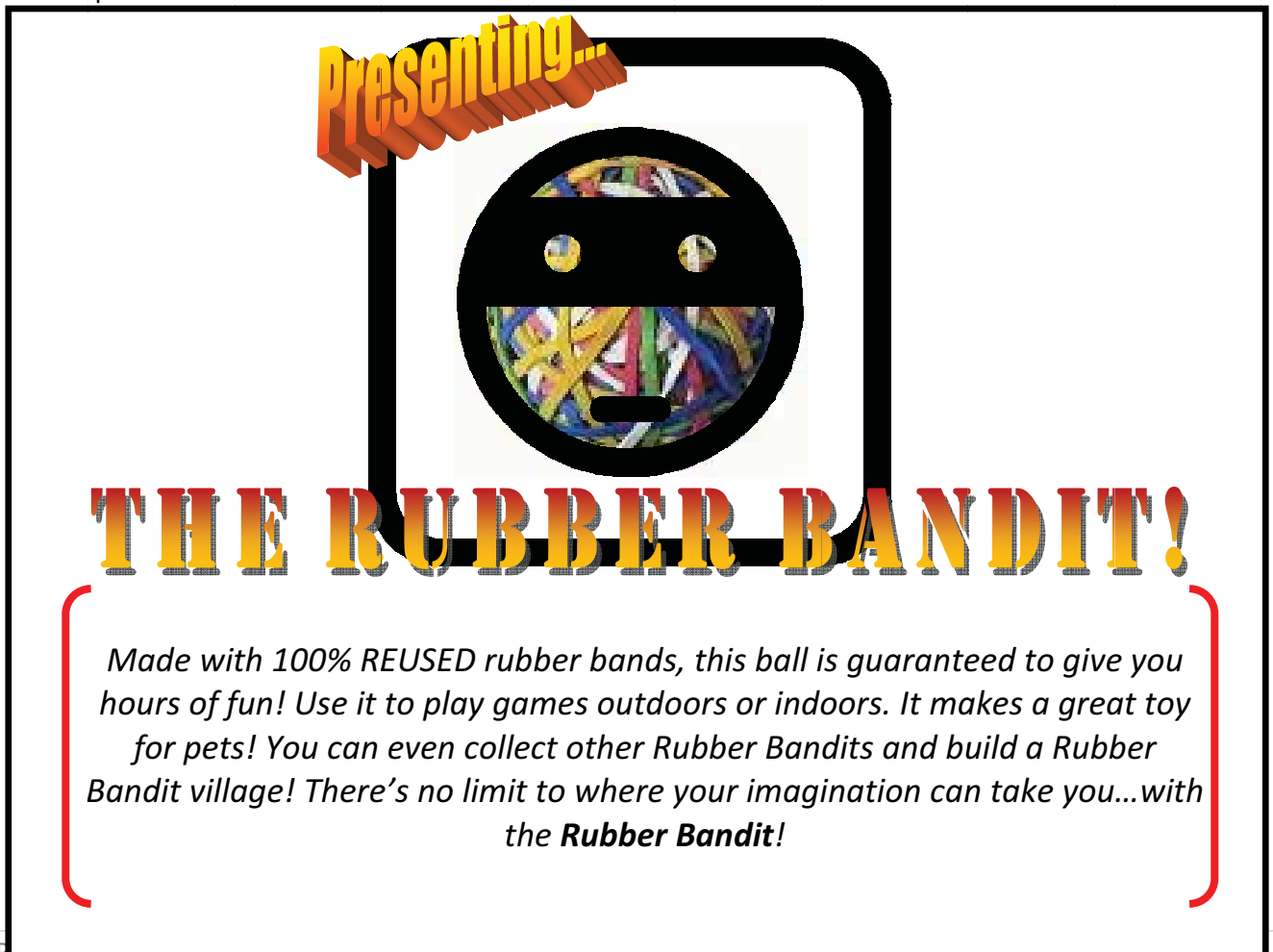
The internet has tons of information on reusing old materials! Try searching for “reuse old stuff (or whatever item you chose to use)” and see what you can find!

Trash to Treasure Ad – Handout

Now that you have re-invented your old products into new products, it's time to create some advertising for it! Make a poster, TV/radio commercial, magazine ad or any other form of advertising to tell your class about your product. The advertisement needs to include the following information:

1. The product name
2. What the product was originally
3. What it is now
4. What the product is for
5. How to use it
6. What your “customers” will get out of the product

Example:



Presenting...

THE RUBBER BANDIT!

*Made with 100% REUSED rubber bands, this ball is guaranteed to give you hours of fun! Use it to play games outdoors or indoors. It makes a great toy for pets! You can even collect other Rubber Bandits and build a Rubber Bandit village! There's no limit to where your imagination can take you...with the **Rubber Bandit!***