

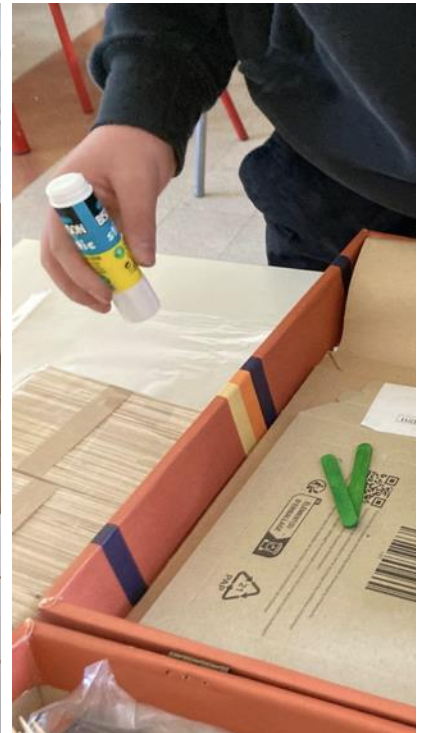


Scarecrow artwork



Scarecrow artwork

Duration	150 min (divided into 3 phases: 30 min, 90 min, 30 min)
Target group	Students that can use basic tools safely, (Students from 10 years and up)
Connection to curriculum	Art, Science (environment, sustainability, construction), mathematics (measurements, data collection)
Particulars	The activity can be done indoors or outdoors, suggested to work in pairs. Start collecting materials 2 weeks before the activity.



Outline

In this tinkering activity, the students build bird scarers using recycled materials previously collected by the students. Only a few essential materials are provided by the teachers: students are asked to gather materials themselves, prior to the workshop, and to share collectively. Some methods for scaring birds, like propane canons or crows made of plastics, are not really environmental friendly. In this activity the students use a more ecological approach: the use of materials that have fulfilled their primary purpose and now have a second chance to serve as extravagant guardians of the garden.



Connection with sustainability

The activity starts with a discussion on environmental issues and uses the creative activity of scarecrow construction as a symbol of sustainability. By using waste materials, the activity aims to instill a mindset that values creativity in the use of materials in innovative ways, promoting an appreciation for sustainability that extends beyond the borders of the workshop.

Health and safety

Hazard	Controls
Tins can be very sharp, students can cut themselves.	Do not let all ages use tins, do not leave pieces unattended, instruction in advance on how to handle it. Have a first aid kit in the room.
Glue guns get very hot.	Give an instruction on how to use the glue guns. Let the students use them in a designated place, and keep an eye on it.

Essential materials

Item	Comment	Total (for 20 students)
Boxes	Cardboard or plastic boxes and containers collected by students in the week prior to the activity	10-12
Tins	Tins collected by students in the week prior to the activity	8-10
Wood sticks	Can be colored by the children to make the scarecrow more creative	many
Toothpicks		Two packs
Balls of wool or cotton	Various colors	1 pack
Cardboard	Start collecting two weeks in advance	a few boxes
Elastics bands		Two boxes
Recycled materials	E.g. plastic bottles, cups, cans, bags, old banners etc. Start collecting two weeks in advance	Enough for each student to create a scarecrow



Essential tools

Item	Comment	Total
Hand drill		one/two
Hot glue		a few
Cold glue		a few
Scotch		4-5
Cutting mats		one/two

The list of materials and tools is not exhaustive, but it is important to have a variety of materials available. Adapt this list to the prompt you give the students.

Preparation

- Let the students collect materials a few weeks in advance.
- Try some techniques in advance. Make sure there are examples to show the students. These can be homemade examples or the examples from the Appendix.
- Prepare the classroom, arranging the different on tables and sorting them in order to give a better overview of what is available for tinkering. Materials can be sorted them according on type, colour, size, etc.
- Create lively and creative islands with materials. Prepare two working tables, one for using hot glue and the other for using the hand drill. The children can use these spaces in pairs, taking turns.



Activity Plan

Introduction (30 min)

- The teacher promotes a friendly and inclusive environment for discussion, encouraging children to share their thoughts on how we can be kind to our planet.
- To introduce the activity, the teacher engages the children in an interactive discussion on the role of bird scarers and scarecrows in protecting crops. Pictures, photos or short videos can be shown. Discuss with the students about different ways that may scare birds away: movement, sound, reflection, other birds or animals that are bigger.
- The teacher then presents the outline of the activity (the range of materials the children can explore, the setting of the room, the special tables, how much time they have, encouraging to work in pairs)
- Child-friendly models and examples are shown to spark inspiration and show that the possibilities are as limitless as their imagination.
- Depending on the goal of the activity you can use the following prompts:
 - **Prompt:**
 - Create a bird scarer that scares away birds in a (vegetable) garden.
 - The mission is to create a scarecrow using recycled materials, picturing it as a friendly defender, not only scaring away crows but also spreading a message of environmental care.
- The teacher outlines simple and clear rules, emphasizing safety and teamwork. The students choose their pairs.

Tip: This activity can be carried out in combination with *Tinkering with solar panels*. In this case, students first make a scarecrow and then try to make it move using the solar panel and a motor.

Managing the activity once it is in progress (90 minutes)

- Workstations are transformed into lively, creative islands. The teacher outlines simple and clear rules, emphasizing safety and teamwork.
- The children choose their work partners and work in pairs.
- The teachers walks around the room and observe how pairs work and writes down remarkable things to use in the conclusion. Teachers support the students' ideas and give alternatives if needed. If they get stuck, encourage them to walk around the room and see how the other pairs progress.

Conclusion (30 min)

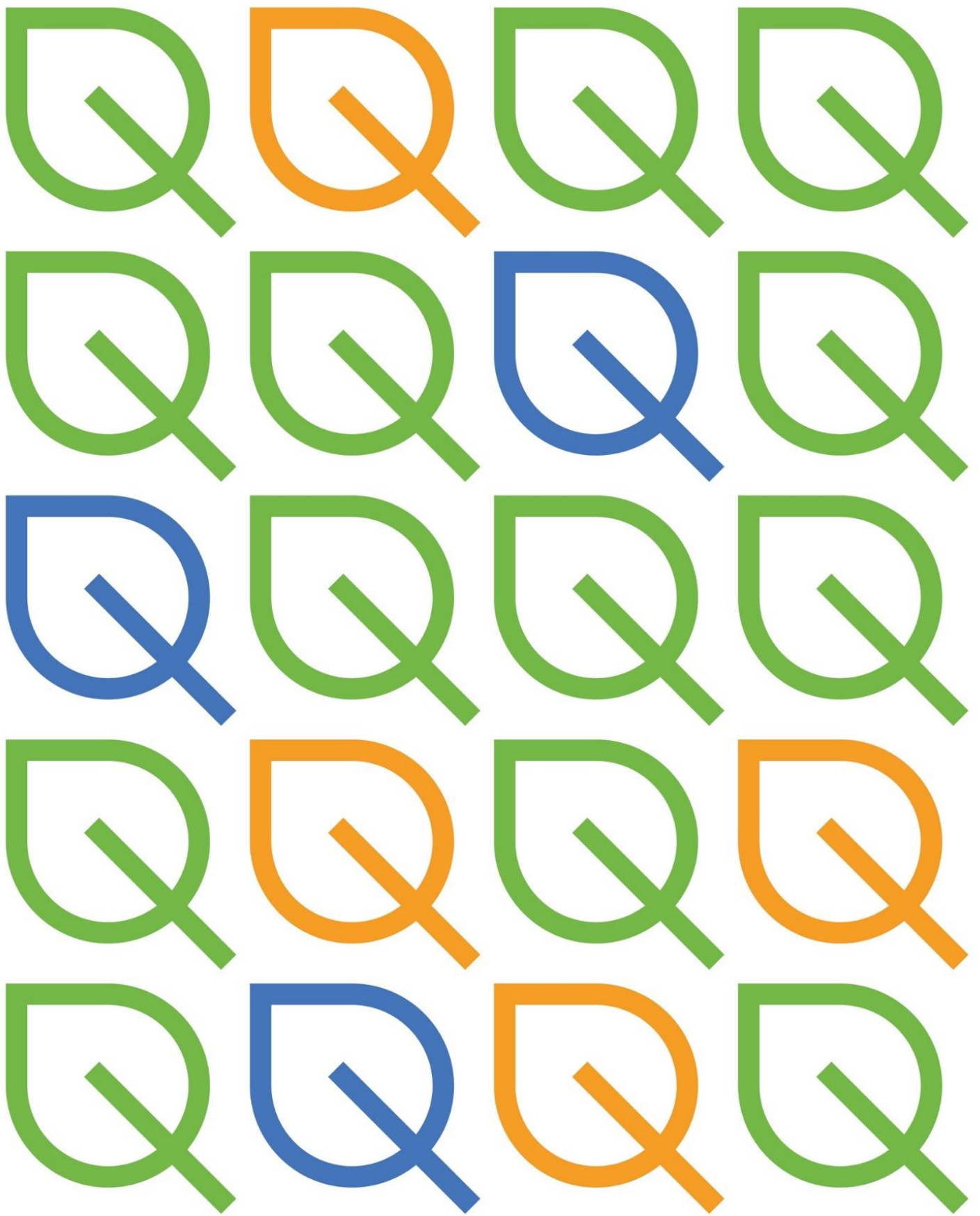
At the end of the activity, each pair can present their work. The teacher can stimulate the presentation by asking questions based on their notes, e.g. what difficulties were encountered, how did they overcome those difficulties, and what progress was made during the work. The teacher can ask how



they collaborated, if they drew on the ideas of others, whether they deviated from their initial ideas and how. Note how many works of art relate to the environment and how objects from waste were incorporated.

Have a concluding discussion with the students to collect their impressions, difficulties, satisfactions and whether they had any unexpected thoughts during the whole tinkering experience.

The scarecrows can then be installed in the school garden or vegetable garden or the children can take them home and use them on their balconies and gardens.



Appendix



Examples of organized material



Examples of special settings for hand drill and hot glue





Examples of bird scarers





Colophon

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