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# Save the planet bag

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Duration	120 minutes
Target group	Students from 10 to 12 years old. Students are able to read, use scissors, cutter and needle and thread
Connection to curriculum	<p>This activity can be implemented during art, science, math lessons</p> <p>In this activity the students work on the following set of skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ cooperation</li> <li>➤ communication</li> <li>➤ critical thinking</li> <li>➤ creativity</li> <li>➤ hand skills</li> <li>➤ leadership</li> <li>➤ team work</li> <li>➤ time management</li> <li>➤ self-esteem</li> <li>➤ etc.</li> </ul>
Particulars	Participants (teachers and students) were informed in advance that they would be involved in group activities on the topic of sustainability. Students were then asked to begin collecting recycled/waste materials and their respective teachers to divide the children into groups of 4 maximum 5 each beforehand. The 4 workshop sessions have taken place in class.

## Outline

Sustainability means taking care of our planet by reducing waste, reusing materials, and recycling whenever possible. We can be sustainability superheroes by encouraging others to recycle, reusing items creatively, and making eco-friendly choices in our daily lives.

In this activity the students tinker a unique bag that encourages others to take sustainable actions. For example, the bag can be used to collect recyclables, encourage reusing items, pick up litter, and spread awareness about the importance of reducing waste. The materials provided are the students' creative toolkit, they get to decide what their bag is for and how to make it.

## Connection with sustainability

The Save the planet bag is based on a sustainable approach through the use of recycled products, its collection and use. On the other hand, within the tinkering process the students will be directly asked to discuss the use of the final product considering a sustainable approach and impact.






Figure 1,2,3,4. Outcomes from tinkering workshop at «Anna Micheli» school, Rome (IT)



## Health and safety

Hazard	Controls
Sewing needles are sharp, students can prick themselves	Stress caution when handling the needles. Have a first-aid kit in the classroom.
Glue can stick fingers together or stick materials to them	Depending on what kind of glue, some fabric glue can be quite strong, have something like oil prepared to easily get the glue off. If using hot glue, give an instruction on how to use them and stress caution. Provide supervision when needed.

## Essential materials

Item	Comment	Total (for xx persons/pairs/groups)
Recycled paper or sustainable paper for bag patterns and designs.		about 2 per group
Various colors of pens, pencils, or markers made from eco-friendly materials.		about 1 set of colors per person
Recycled materials to create a bag.	<p><i>Shopping bags, bags, shoppers, tote bags, old clothes,</i></p>  <p><i>bulk package, potato nets, old clothes</i></p>  <p><i>Old banners or flags (like the ones from building sites)</i></p> 	about 3 per group
Fruit nets		
Decorative elements	Try to use re-used items e.g. from seat belts, or a charity shop	
Thread and fabric	From old clothes or other textiles, ready to be reused creatively	about 1 per person



### Essential tools

Item	Comment	Total (for xx persons/pairs/groups)
Scissors		1 per pair
Glue	The glue must be strong enough to hold the fabric together.	1 per pair
Eco-friendly tape		1 per group
Needle and thread	Depending on whether the students involved are capable of sewing. Provide a pincushion or box to keep the needles in.	4 per group (needle) 3 or 4 set of threads
Ruler		2 per group
Pins or pegs	To hold the fabric together before sewing	

### Preparation

Group tables and arrange them in the classroom to ensure group work. Incentivize the students to walk around and observe. Distribute the materials on the different “work stations”. Arrange the dangerous one on the teacher's desk. Sort the materials to give a clear overview which materials are available.

Prepare some examples to be showed to the students.



# Activity Plan

## Introduction

Tell the students: their task is to tinker a unique bag that encourages others to take sustainable actions. For example, the bag can be used to collect recyclables, as a way to encourage reusing items, pick up litter, or spread awareness about the importance of reducing waste. The materials provided are their creative toolkit, and they get to decide what their bag is for and how to make it.

Divide the students into groups of 4/5. Let the students explore the wide range of materials. Ask them to discuss and brainstorm on sustainable actions they want to stimulate with the bag. Let them think about creative ways to encourage others to take part in sustainable actions.

Show the students different ways to attach fabric and other materials together (gluing, sewing, knotted edges.) Encourage them to think creatively and to decide how to design their bag. Will they use fabric patches, sew on decorative elements, braid with old plastic bags or use thread for stitching? Emphasize that there are no right or wrong ways to approach the activity.

Prompt to start the activity: Tinker a bag to encourage sustainable actions. The activity takes 120 minutes.

At the end it is encouraged to take the bags home, depending on a follow-up activity, students can take the bags home to collect trash or the class can collect trash in the neighborhood together.

## Managing the activity once it is in progress

- Pay attention to safety, students work with tins or scissors, which are sharp, and glue guns, which get hot.
- Indicate every 10 - 20 minutes how much time is left.
- Observe the groups and know what students are working on, and whether students are frustrated or stuck.
- Use comments and questions to get students thinking about possible solutions or to help them articulate their goals or problems:
  - **Pose questions instead of answers:** what message do you want the bag to help you convey? What kind of objects you would put inside it and why? Would you be able to reuse it for other occasions? If yes, which ones?
  - **Create a supportive and inspiring environment:** *I really like how you are using the material.*
  - **Help in case of frustration and failure in a positive and productive way:** *why do you think this is not working for you?*
  - **Encourage learners to pursue personal interest:** *don't worry if you think it might not work, have a go anyway.*
  - **Encourage collaboration:** *maybe you can ask the other group how that worked for them.*
- Encourage students to look at other groups or the material tables if they get stuck.

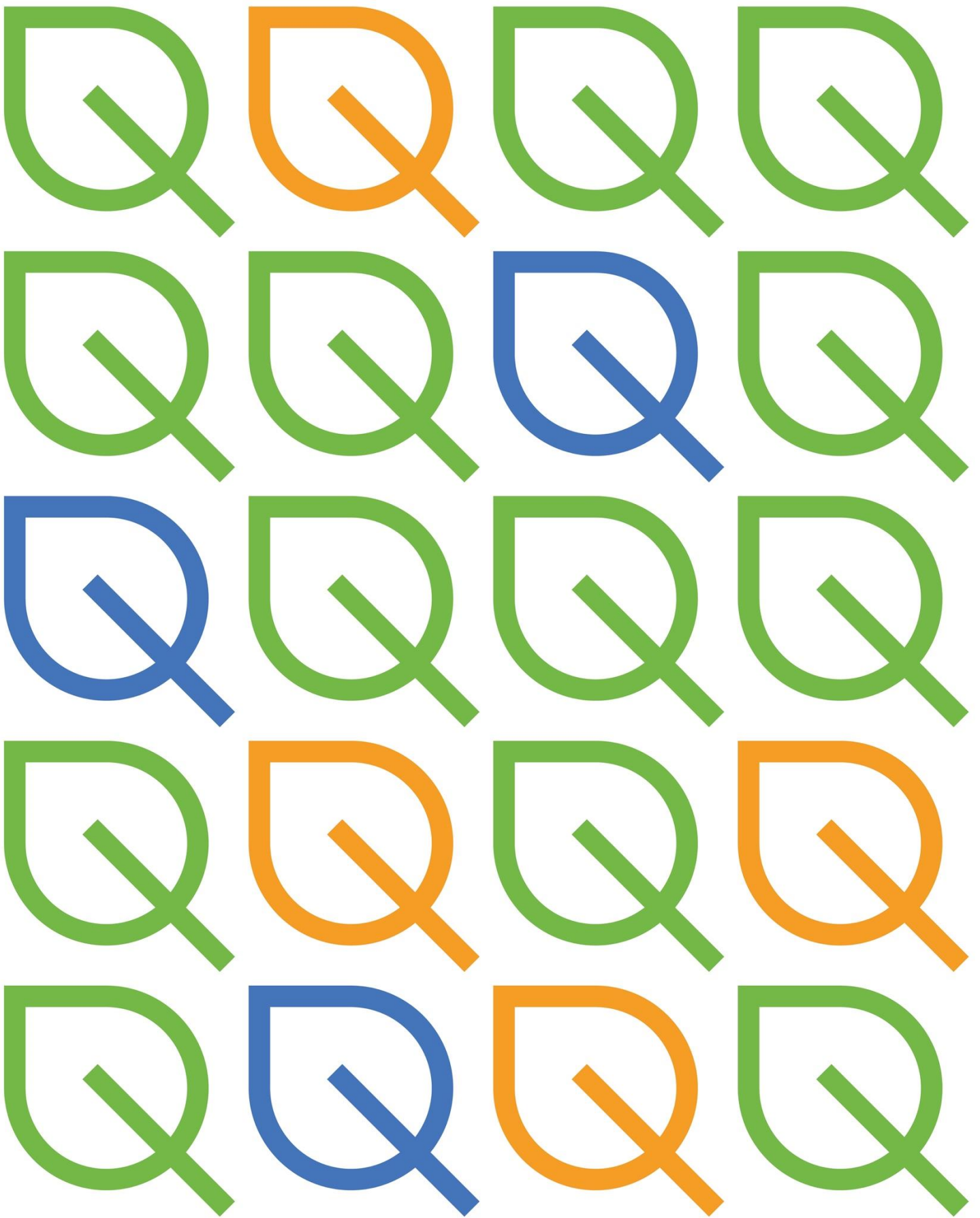


- Write down events or statements from students that stand out, to use when discussing the activity afterwards. (E.g: If you saw them working together really well, or overcoming a frustration.)
- Have the groups round off after 55 minutes. In case students finish earlier, the activity can also be stopped earlier, let it depend on the group.
- Tips for guiding this particular activities:
  - See appendix for examples of **“Save the planet bag”**
  - Clothespins, stapler, attaches, needle and threadwork really well to connect things
  - The use of colors and decorations (i.e., stickers, glitter) increased the level of engagement
  - Key words on the theme of sustainability helped artifacts as better express the concept of sustainability
  - Thinking about what kind of objects or waste/recycled materials these bags should contain helps the creation process
- Clean up, make sure that materials that can be used again are not thrown away and paper scraps are collected in the paper trash.

## Conclusion

Once the students' bags are complete, share the creations with the group. Let them explain the sustainable actions they want to stimulate and how their bag can inspire others to take part. Also reflect on their learning process: what went well? What would you do otherwise next time? How would you do that? Let their enthusiasm for sustainability inspire each other and take pictures of all the creations!

Finally, have the students take their sustainable trash collection bags home with them. Use them proudly to collect recyclables or spread awareness about the importance of sustainable actions.



# Appendix





Appendix      Examples of possible outcomes



@greenMe



@Easymomswissmade



@Non sprecaire



# Colophon

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