



EARTH DAY CRAFTS:

9 Nature and Recycled Crafts for Kids



Earth Day Crafts: 9 Nature and Recycled Crafts for Kids

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Letter from the Editor

Hello, Earthlings!

Spring is well on the way and that means Earth Day is almost here! There's no better way to celebrate Earth Day than to craft with recycled materials and talk to your kids about the environment. Recycling is an important thing that everyone should do, but that doesn't mean you can't craft with your recyclables! In fact, it's the best way to reuse materials and you won't spend a lot of money on new crafting supplies.

You and your family are going to have so much fun with all of these crafts and activities. We have nature crafts for kids that are going to get them outside soaking up the sun and getting their hands dirty in the yard. If spring is particularly rainy, have no fear, we have an assortment of recycled crafts that you can do in the comfort of your cozy and dry home. With a little luck, you won't have to buy any new materials in order to do any of these crafts, because you probably already have the materials in your home.

You can find even more craft projects, games, and activity ideas at www.AllFreeKidsCrafts.com.

Our eBooks, like all our kids' craft projects, are absolutely FREE to members of our kids' crafts community. Please feel free to share with family and friends and ask them to sign up at our website for our [free e-mail newsletter](#).

Happy crafting!

Sara

Editor of AllFreeKidsCrafts
www.AllFreeKidsCrafts.com

Earth Day Crafts: 9 Nature and Recycled Crafts for Kids

Nature Activities.....	5
Eggshell Seedling Planters.....	5
Tea Bag Flowers	7
How to Make a Water Bottle Bird Feeder...	10
Recycled Crafts.....	13
Spectacular CD Weaving	13
Soda Bottle Owl Craft.....	18
Toilet Paper Roll Tea Cups.....	22
Coffee Filter Earth Day Craft	25
Majestic Clothespin Butterflies	28
Recycled Water Bottle Bracelet	33

Nature Activities

Eggshell Seedling Planters

By: [Annie from Bird and Little Bird](#)

Eggshell Seedling Planters are lovely garden crafts for kids to make as Earth Day crafts or spring crafts for kids. Try sowing tiny seeds in biodegradable eggshells for completely green crafts that will get your seedlings off to a good start. Your children will have so much fun watching their little seeds grow on the windowsill. If you want to teach your children responsibility, then taking care of a plant is one of the best ways to teach such a thing. Planting seedlings is the perfect way to spend Earth Day with your kids. Start your seedling garden today and soon you will reap the rewards.



Materials:

- Eggs
- Seeds
- Potting Soil

Instructions:

1. Start saving your eggshells during your normal kitchen activities. A good way to do this is to use a serrated knife or a pair of scissors to gently remove one end of the eggshell. Poking a couple of holes in the eggshell along the line where you want to cut allows you to use your knife or scissors to lop off the top a lot of more easily.
2. Fill the eggshell to the top with potting soil. Remember that the soil will shrink down a bit when it gets wet.
3. Plant two to four (2-4) seeds in the soil, following the instructions on the seed packet.
4. To water, you can either pour a very small amount of water into the top of the eggshell or use a spray bottle to lightly mist until the surface is uniformly damp.
5. Now, watch your seedlings grow! You can put your eggshells back in the carton they came in and use them as a centerpiece on the table until they're ready to move outside. Make sure your plants get plenty of sunlight so your seedlings don't get leggy and flop over.



Make traveling less stressful by following the tips in our article: [How to Travel with Your Kids!](#)

Tea Bag Flowers

By: [Gina from Willowday](#)

Since the warm months bring a smile to your face, share that joy with others. Give spring crafts for children to moms, grandmas, aunts, and friends that will instantly light up their lives. Tea Bag Flowers are the perfect spring craft ideas for kids to make as gifts. Flower crafts for kids are perfect for both spring and summer, and these darling tea bags are sure to be the best gift ever given. The beautiful arts and crafts projects are not only lovely to look at, but they're also usable in a delicious way. Surprise your favorite tea drinker with a gift that will sweeten their day.



Materials:

- Red Berry Tea brewed – approx. ¼ cup strong brewed
- Red Berry Tea loose – use it to fill the flower tea bags
- Disposable Paper Tea Bags
- Kitchen string
- Leaf-shaped gift tags
- Hole punch
- Scissors

Instructions:

1. Gather supplies.
2. Fold disposable paper tea bag in an accordion fold.
3. Round the open end of the tea bag.
4. Dip the tea bag into tea.
5. Dip only the end.
6. Unfold the tea bag and let dry.
7. Continue with steps 2-6 until you have the desired amount of tea bags.



8. Once the flower tea bags are dry, fill each individual tea bag with a single serving of tea. Set aside and continue to fill the desired number of tea bags.
9. Twist the top of the tea bag at the base of the flower petals.
10. Your tea bags are ready to be enjoyed. Fill a tin with these and wrap them for gift giving.



How to Make a Water Bottle Bird Feeder

By: [Zoe from Floral and Feather](#)

Celebrate Earth Day or just the return of warm weather by teaching your kids How to Make a Water Bottle Bird Feeder. You probably already have all of the materials you need in your home to make this spring craft for kids. Your children will have so much fun making the DIY bird feeder and watching the birds in the garden. Even if you don't have all of the materials required, you can get most or all of them at the dollar store, so this project shouldn't cost you much at all! Have fun watching the birds flying around the house with your kids this spring.



Materials:

- Empty water bottle (with lid)
- Wooden spoon
- Bird seed
- String
- Scissors and a screw

Instructions:

1. Cut two holes at the bottom of the bottle, each on opposite sides, so that your spoon will need to slide through both holes. Cut the holes wide enough so that even with the spoon through, there will be room for seeds to be pecked out.



2. Poke holes in a couple of places further up the bottle, so there are plenty of options for the birds to get the seeds.
3. Make two holes in the bottle lid (a screw is good tool to do this). Poke string through the holes, but don't tie until ready to hang up.



4. Fill bottle with bird seed (using a funnel will avoid too much mess) and hang in your tree!



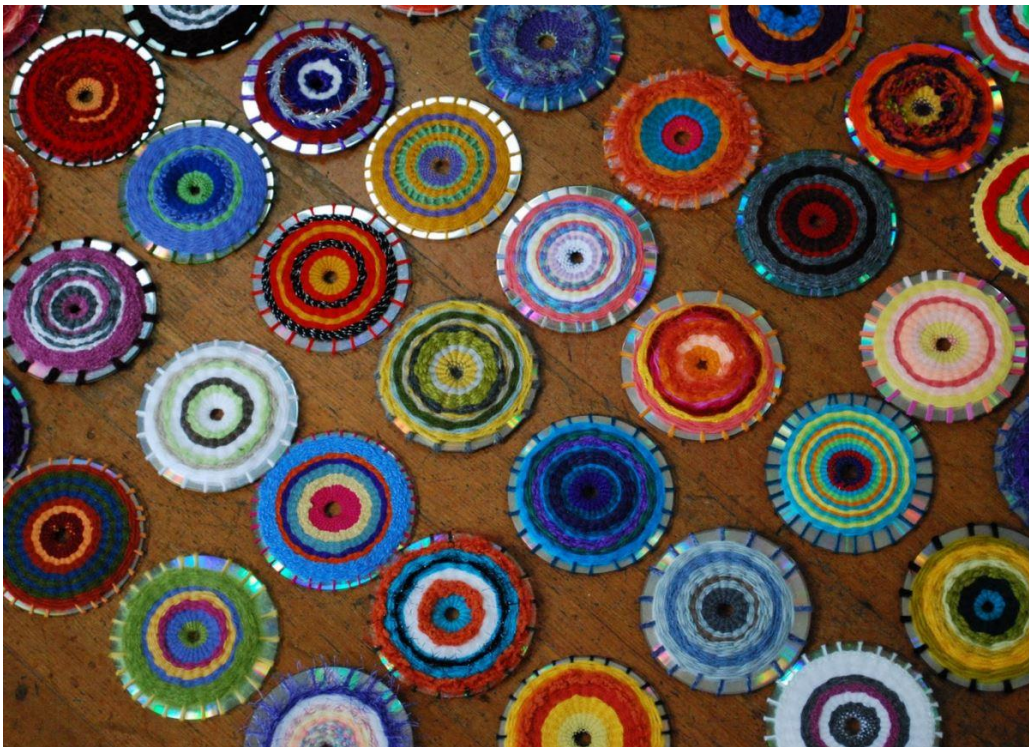
Keep the house clean with our tips in: [5 Tips to Keep Messy Projects Clean!](#)

Recycled Crafts

Spectacular CD Weaving

By: [Stephanie from Make It a Wonderful Life](#)

Make art in your house without ever leaving the comfort of your own home. Spectacular CD Weaving can be done simply, but the result is anything but plain. Make a few woven CDs and you'll begin to see the magic happen. There is no longer a question of what to do with CDs, rather how to get more. Turn a wall into a woven CD spectacle or just use one as a coaster. The options are endless with this awesome technique that teaches you how to weave. Learn how to recycle as you create gallery-worthy art. Recycled crafts are the best because you don't have to pay for anything and you get something beautiful out of it!



Materials:

- Old CDs
- Scrap yarn
- Scissors
- If you want to make the flexible needles, you'll need:
 - Plastic lids
 - Hole punch

Instructions:

To make the needles:

(You can use regular yarn needles, but the flexible needles are easy for kids to thread and you can have a lot of them available at no cost.

1. Cut the rim off the lid.
2. Cut the remaining flat circle of plastic into pie-shaped pieces, then round the top edge.
3. Punch a hole in the rounded end to make the eye of the needed. Trim if needed.

To warp the CDs:

1. A smooth yarn works best. The warp yarn is between 4 and 6 feet long. Tie it to the CD by putting one end through the center hole and knotting it to itself on the back. Turn the CD over to the front, pulling the thread through the center and wrapping around the CD, creating the spokes. Make sure the warp threads are pretty tight!



2. It's **important** to have the warp threads be an uneven number. It's easy to check this by pushing the spokes together in pairs, making sure your last one is a single.



- a. The total number of warp threads can vary, as long as it's an uneven number. The fewer spokes, the faster it is to weave, but the looser the weaving will be, especially out near the edge.
- b. To keep the warp threads an uneven number without counting: As you put the threads on, keep them in pairs. Then add one more as a single. Knot the last thread on the back of the CD by tying it to the first thread. Then spread out the warp threads evenly on the front. Now you're ready to weave!

To weave the CDs:

1. Choose your first yarn. It will be the center of your weaving. Attach it to the back of the CD by tying it to one of the warp spokes.



2. Knot the other end to the needle. Push the needle up through the center hole to the front side. Weave over under, over under. When you get near the end of your yarn, attach another yarn.



3. When you add a new yarn, leave the tail long enough to tuck in after you've done a few more stitches so you can see where the knot needs to tuck in. If the tails are too short, they are harder to tuck in.



4. When you get to the last round, end by tying the yarn to one of the warp spokes and tucking in the end.



Soda Bottle Owl Craft

By: [Rachel from I Heart Crafty Things](#)

Your child can make this cute little friend as a unique animal craft. All your little one needs are two plastic bottles to form the base of this Soda Bottle Owl Craft. To really make this owl craft come to life, you'll only need a few basic crafting supplies and just a little bit of time. Your kids can experiment with different colors to make this recycled craft their own. They will be so excited with their creations that they will be hooting for joy! Owl crafts are really fun crafts for kids to make, because "who" doesn't love owls?



Materials:

- 2 empty and clean 2-liter soda bottles
- Craft knife (for adult use only)
- White, black, and yellow cardstock paper
- Sheet of printed scrapbook paper
- Colored cardstock paper (color of your choice)
- Scissors
- Tacky glue
- 2-inch circle punch
- 1.5 inch scallop circle punch
- Pencil

Instructions:

1. Start by removing the labels from your soda bottles. Carefully cut both of the soda bottles in half with your craft knife (this step must be completed by an adult).

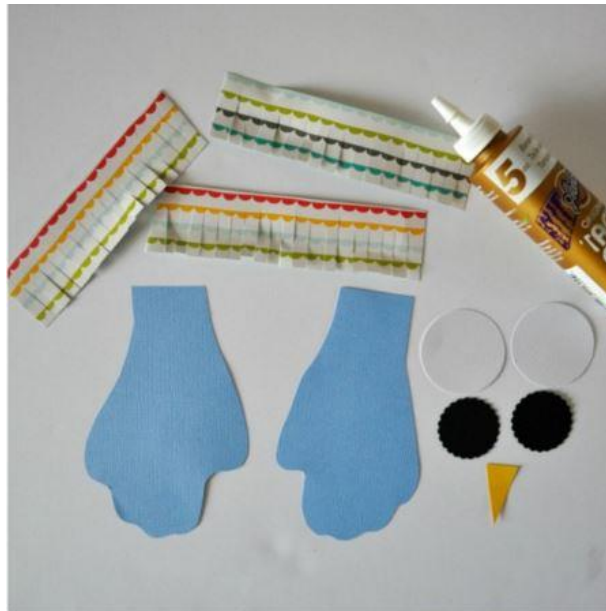


2. Turn one of your soda bottles upside down and press it down inside the other soda bottle as far as you can get it. This forms a tight seal and no glue is required to hold them together.



Optional: You can paint your soda bottle a different color if you choose.

3. Cut three strips from your scrapbook paper that are about 5 ½ inches by 1 ½ inches and then cut slits along the bottom of all three strips to resemble little feathers.
4. Use your 2-inch circle punch to cut out two circles from your white cardstock paper.
5. Use your 1 ½ inch circle scallop punch to cut out two circles from your black cardstock paper.
6. Trace your child's hands on your colored cardstock paper and cut them out.
7. Cut a beak out of your yellow cardstock paper.



8. Start assembling your owl by gluing your three frayed strips one on top of another onto your soda bottles with your tack glue. Start with the bottom strip and then overlap each strip going up the bottle.



9. Next, glue the scalloped circles onto your white circles. Glue your eyes and beak onto your soda bottle.



10. Finish your owl by gluing your child's handprints on the side of the owl.



Toilet Paper Roll Tea Cups

By: [Ntina Ntonti from Happy Girly Crafty](#)

Recycle some toilet paper rolls into a tea set (or coffee mugs) for the kids and let their imaginations run wild. This craft is super easy, and the little ones will love making their own custom cups. Finish up this craft in half an hour and have fun playing! You won't have to worry about kids breaking any cups because they're just made out of cardboard! Create a free and fancy tea set for the kids to have tea parties with materials that you already have in your home!



Materials:

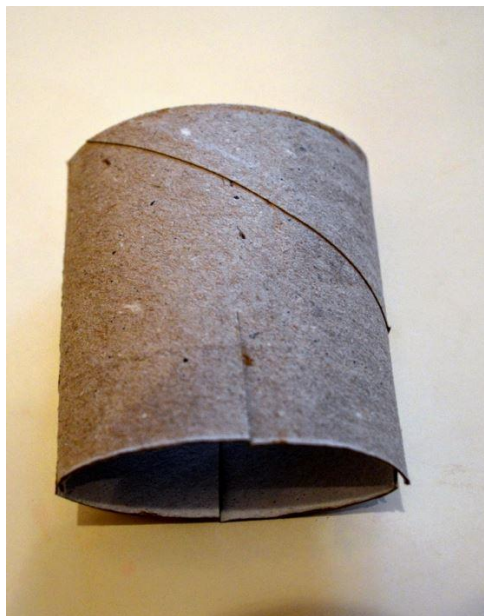
- Toilet paper rolls
- Glue
- Paint

Instructions:

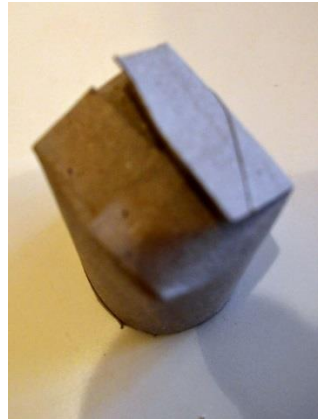
1. Cut a piece of the roll to make it smaller. Keep that piece; you are going to need it!



2. Squeeze the big piece to form a rectangle and cut 4 slits at the bottom. One at the front, one at the back, and one at each end of your rectangle.



3. Now fold each piece you cut and glue to close the bottom of the roll and create the base of the cup.



4. Take the small piece you cut earlier and cut it to make the handle of the cup. You can use a stapler to attach the handle to the cup or you can use glue.



5. Paint them, make little plates out of cardboard and have fun with your little ones!



Coffee Filter Earth Day Craft

By: [Rachel from I Heart Crafty Things](#)

This Earth Day project for kids is out of this world! Celebrate Earth Day the thrifty way with this amazing Coffee Filter Earth Day Craft. Simple techniques and instructions make this Earth Day activity a winner among younger children. It's even a good group project. This Earth Day paper craft even comes with a writing prompt, making it the perfect craft project for the classroom. Your little ones will love the easy technique for making a starry sky and will definitely want to try it out on some other kids' craft projects.



Materials:

- Blue and green markers
- Coffee filters
- Spray bottle filled with water
- Black cardstock or construction paper
- White paint
- Glue
- Brown paper bag
- Red construction paper

Instructions:

1. Take your green marker and scribble areas of land on a coffee filter and then fill in the rest of the filter with blue ocean scribbles.

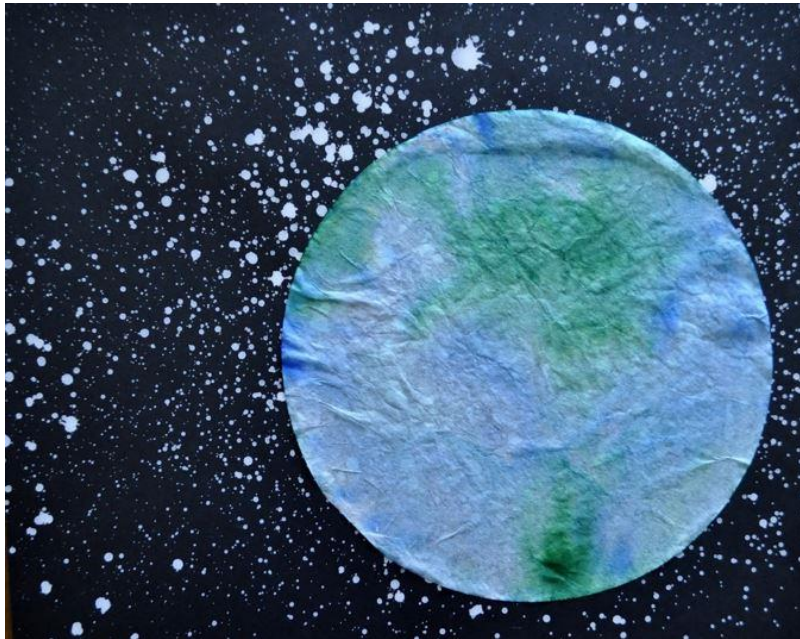


2. Then use a spray bottle to spray the coffee filter with water. The colors will blend and fill the entire coffee filter.



3. While your coffee filter Earth is drying, dilute white paint in the spray bottle and lightly spray the black paper. This will be the stars and space to which you glue your coffee filter Earth.

4. While your Earth and space are drying, fold up the brown paper bag and cut out some paper dolls holding hands.
5. Draw a heart and cut it out of the red construction paper.
6. Once everything is dried, glue the Earth onto the starry construction paper. Then, glue the people and the heart going across the Earth.



Majestic Clothespin Butterflies

By: [Amanda Formaro for AllFreeKidsCrafts.com](http://AllFreeKidsCrafts.com)

Clothespin crafts for kids are all the rage right now because they are simple and fun. These Majestic Clothespin Butterflies are the perfect project idea for your little ones to do because kids love butterfly crafts. This is such a neat idea for creating colorful butterflies! Your little crafters will have a blast with this project. Kids always love to paint crazy designs, and now they get to do that while they make some of the cutest and most unique butterflies ever. Crafting does not get any better than this!



Materials:

- 2 round slotted clothespins (also called doll pins)
- Black paint
- 2 tiny googly eyes
- Black pipe cleaner
- 1 sheet of copy paper
- Watercolor paints
- Paintbrush
- White craft glue

Instructions:

1. Paint the clothespins black and set aside to dry.



2. Paint the piece of paper with the watercolor paints. Don't leave any white areas; paint the whole thing and be as colorful as you can! Set aside to dry.



3. Glue the googly eyes onto the clothespin. Then set aside to dry.



4. When the pieces of painted paper are dry, cut the painted paper in half so that you have two 5"x8" (approximately) pieces.



5. Starting at the 5" side, fold paper up accordion style. Repeat for the second painted paper.



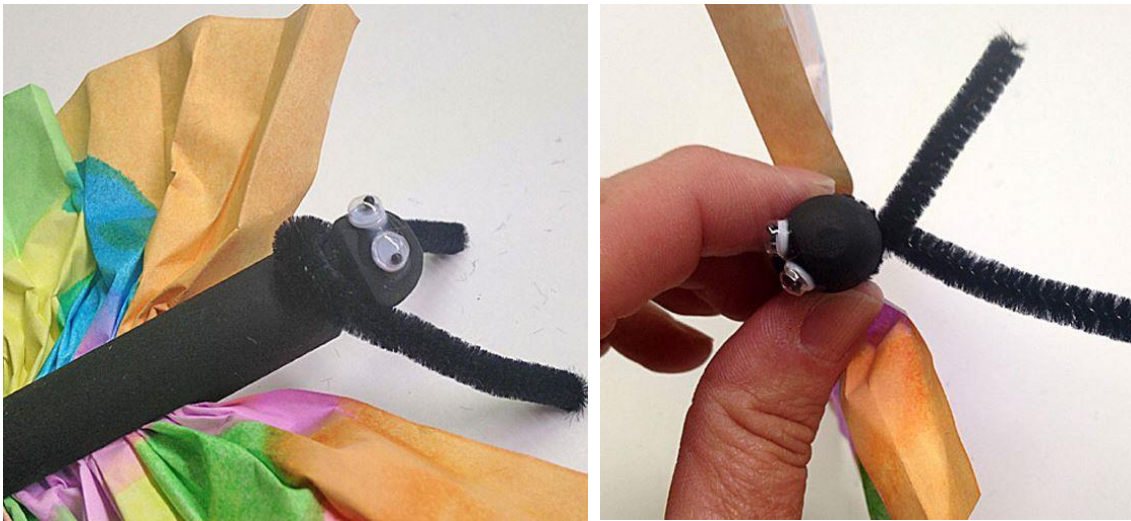
6. Stretch the paper out. With the clothespin laying on the table, insert the 5" side of the paper, painted side facing up, into the clothespin's slot.



7. Gather the paper up into the slot by pulling and pushing the paper a little at a time. Spread the wings out and shape them.



8. Cut the pipe cleaner in half. Wrap it around the neck of the clothespin so that the open ends are in the back. Twist it closed around the neck.



9. Bend the two ends up so that they stick up behind the head. Trim to desired length for your antennae.



Recycled Water Bottle Bracelet

By: [Tanner Bell for AllFreeKidsCrafts.com](http://TannerBellforAllFreeKidsCrafts.com)

If you're always wondering how to recycled water bottles then you should make a Recycled Water Bottle Bracelet. It is so easy to make, especially with the helpful video tutorial. There are so many crafts with water bottles, but this one you can wear to school! Dig through your recycling bin today and start crafting. This is such a budget-friendly craft because you have every material you need already in your home. Start your collection of water bottle bracelets today! All of your friends are going to want to know where you bought and how to get their own recycled bling.



Materials

- Mod Podge
- Craft knife
- Empty water bottle
- Scissors
- Fabric of your choice
- [Video tutorial](#)

Instructions:

1. Make 3-4 one-inch wide strips of fabric.
2. Remove label of water bottle.
3. Cut off the top of the water bottle with the craft knife and scissors.
4. Cut a one-inch band off the water bottle. This will be your bracelet.
5. Apply Mod Podge on the inside of the bracelet and wrap the fabric around the bracelet, affixing it with a medium layer of Mod Podge.
6. Once it's wrapped around, seal the fabric with another layer of Mod Podge.



Thank you to everyone included in this eBook:

[I Heart Crafty Things](#)

[Floral and Feather](#)

[Willowday](#)

[Bird and Little Bird](#)

[Happy Girly Crafty](#)

[Make It a Wonderful Life](#)

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