

Resource
one



Look at the resource below, which shares some examples of upcycled items.



An old suitcase upcycled to become a chess or draughts game. The pieces are stored inside!

Source: Louise LePierres



An upcycled plastic bottle to create a bird feeder.



An upcycled t-shirt becomes a necklace.



Old tyres upcycled and turned into planters.

Wooden pallets upcycled to create furniture.



Source:
Claudia
Zimmer

The pull tabs from drinks cans upcycled to make a handbag.

Which of these upcycled items do you like? Would you use any of them? Why?



Look at the resource below sharing some people's opinions about young people learning about repairing things.

"I think with advances in technology, things are more complicated to repair yourself. When I had my first car, I felt really confident to try different things, have a play and basically problem solve to make repairs. Now everything seems to be electrical and finding the fault is beyond my skills set."

Gemma - age 46



"I don't think young people have opportunities to learn repair skills like I did. We were taught repair skills at school and home. Throwing items away wasn't really the culture in my day, we fixed and repaired everything."

David - age 73



Making bike repairs.

"There are many opportunities for young people to learn repair skills. They can learn them at school, at home and online. You can learn how to repair most things from a YouTube video. It is more about problem solving, being resourceful and being resilient. If you want to learn how to repair something, you can find out!"

Haddie - age 21

"I think learning to repair items comes with life experience. We learn to do it as we need to. Young people watch and learn from the adults around them."

Ishaaq - age 28

**Do you strongly agree or disagree with any of these opinions?
Do you feel you learn enough about repairing items?**

Picture News



Do we throw things away too easily?

Many of us are increasingly reusing, repairing, and upcycling items, instead of throwing them away and replacing with new ones, according to experts. Upcycling shop, the Repair Café in Wales believes, that because of the cost of living crisis, people are making the most of what they already have. Throwaway culture has been the norm since the 1950s but now appears to be declining.



- Look at this week's poster image. What do you think it could be? Explain that it is a 'repair café' in Wales. Share what you think a repair café might be.
- Read the information found on the assembly resource about the Repair Café in Wales. Do you think it's a good idea? Can you think of any items in your home you could take to a repair café?
- Thinking about your own household items; can you make a list? For each of the items, when they break, what do you do with them?
- Do you know how to repair or fix things when they break? Do you think repairing things is an important skill for young people to learn?
- Why do you think repair cafés are becoming increasingly popular? Do you know if there are any or anything similar in your local area?
- Aside from repairing things, can you think of any other benefits that might come from a repair café?
- Watch this week's useful video, which shows how electrical items can be turned into gold. Do you think this is a good use of old items, can you think of any other uses for them?

Reflection

Many of the items we have can be fixed, changed, and even improved! Rather than throwing old things away, they can be given a new lease of life for us or others!

Picture News



KS1 focus

What is upcycling?



- Think about the items you have at school or home that you no longer need or want. Why do you no longer need or want them? What do you do with them? Do you throw them away? Recycle them? Pass them onto someone else?
- Sometimes we may throw an item away that is damaged, worn-out, old or we might feel we cannot use again. Can you think of any examples of items you might throw away?
- Many of the items we throw away can be changed, decorated or repaired to make something more fashionable or valuable. We call this upcycling. Have you heard of upcycling before?
- Look at resource 1, which shares some examples of upcycled items. Which of these upcycled items do you like? Would you use any of them? Why?
- Focus on the tyres, which have been upcycled to make planters. Have you ever seen other items upcycled and used for plants e.g., old wellies, the basket of an old bike? How were they upcycled e.g., decorated, painted?
- Think about some of the items you have at home and school. Are any of them upcycled? Have you ever upcycled anything before? Do you have any ideas of items you might like to upcycle?
- Discuss the benefits of upcycling such as helping reduce waste, saving money, enjoying being creative. Can you think of any drawbacks?

Reflection

Upcycling is a creative way of giving unwanted, old, damaged or worn-out items a new life. It helps us to reuse items and reduce waste.

Picture News



KS2 focus

Do young people learn enough about how to repair things?



- Make a list of items at home or school that broke or became damaged e.g., a plate, a toy, the strap on a bag, some furniture. What happened to the item? Was it repaired? If so, how was it repaired and who fixed it?
- Many people believe that young people no longer possess the skills needed to repair items in their homes. Look at resource 2, which shares some people's opinions about young people learning about repairing things. Do you strongly agree or disagree with anyone?
- Focus on Gemma and Haddie's comments. Gemma feels advances in technology have made repairing items harder for her, whereas Haddie believes it has made learning how to repair items easier. Who do you think is right? Have you ever learned how to do something by watching a video online?
- Have you ever repaired anything? Are there some items you feel more confident repairing than others? Has anyone ever shown you how to repair something? If so, who was it?
- Discuss some of the opportunities you have had to learn repair skills e.g., sewing, using tools, problem solving, learning about electrical items. Where did you learn these skills? Did you want to learn them? Do you think some people may enjoy repairing items more than others?

Reflection

There are many different skills we can learn that can help us repair items. Some of these skills may interest us more than others. We may even end up pursuing a hobby or career that uses repair skills.



KS2 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Many people consider cost when deciding whether to repair an item.

- Can you think of when repairing something might be more or less cost effective than replacing it with a new item?

Look at the following information:

- Cost of a new t-shirt - £6.50
- Cost of a pair of new socks - £1.99
- Cost of small travel sewing kit - £3.49
- Average time taken to repair a small hole in clothing - 10 minutes
- Average hourly pay - £13

Discuss how cost-effective mending clothing is using calculations to share your thoughts.

Option 2

If possible, bring in an item of clothing from home in need of repair. Perhaps a sock with a hole in it or a button that is missing from a shirt. Without any instruction from anyone else, try to fix your item. Discuss the following:

- What equipment did you need to fix your item of clothing?
- Did you know how to thread a needle? Did you find it easy or hard?
- What type of stitch did you use?
- Did you come across any difficulties during your repair? Were you able to overcome them?
- Do you think the repair will last?
- How will you improve your clothing repair skills?

Use this opportunity to learn more about repairing items of clothing. Perhaps an adult in school might be able to teach you techniques to thread a needle and sew or you might be able to find an online tutorial!

Teacher note – you may need to give some safety instructions before allowing children to use a needle.



KS1 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Think about the Repair Café in Wales. Whilst people are working on their repairs, they can get something from the café.

- Have you visited a café before?
- What items were on the menu?
- What did you have to drink/eat?
- Do you know how much your drink cost?

The Repair Café in Wales doesn't charge for its food and drinks but they do welcome donations.

- What is a donation?

Design a menu for the Repair Café in Wales. Think about:

- What will your menu title be?
- What will be your subheadings?
- How will you organise your list of food and drink?
- What pictures will you include?
- How will you decorate your menu?

Option 2

Upcycle something that can be used in your classroom/outdoor area at school! Use resource 1 and the following questions to help you discuss ideas.

- What do you want to make? A pencil pot, a tray to store drinks bottles, a bird feeder, a plant pot?
- What item will you upcycle? A food/drinks container, an old item of clothing?
- What materials/equipment will you need to upcycle it? Paint, scissors, glue, string?

Gather everything you need and begin upcycling!



This week's useful websites

This week's news story

www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-63474448

This week's useful video

New technology recycling gold from electronic waste
www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/58971402

This week's Virtual Picture News

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

This week's vocabulary

A new lease of life

An increase in the period for which something can be used.

Rather than throwing old things away, they can be given a **new lease of life** for us or others!

Aside from

Except for.

Aside from repairing things, can you think of any other benefits that might come from a repair café?

Crisis

A time of great disagreement, difficulty, confusion, or suffering.

Upcycling shop, the Repair Café in Wales, believes that because of the cost of living **crisis**, people are making the most of what they already have.

Culture

The way of life of a group of people at a particular time. Throwaway **culture** has been the norm since the 1950s but now appears to be declining.

Repair

Mend or fix something that is damaged, broken, or not working correctly to a good condition or make it work again. Do you know how to **repair** or fix things when they break?

Upcycling

Changing, decorating or repairing an item to make something more fashionable or valuable. Many of us are increasingly reusing, repairing, and **upcycling** items.