

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

What are you Doing for Earth Day?

Earth Day is every year on April 22. What are you doing this year?

Here are some Earth Day projects our family is going to doing for the day.

- **Toothbrush Bracelets:** Turn your toothbrush into a unique recycled piece of jewelry. It's not only fun to make, but it's fun to wear as well.

What you'll need:

Old toothbrush
Tweezers or pliers
Pot
Tongs
Large mug
Oven gloves

How to make it:

Remove all the bristles from the toothbrush with tweezers or pliers. This is a bit hard, but they come out with ease once you start pulling.

Next, start a pot of water on the stove and bring it to a boil. Keep water boiling, put toothbrush in water for five minutes. Remove toothbrush with tongs, bend to desired shape, be sure and use gloves or mittens, because the toothbrush handle will be very warm.

If toothbrush doesn't bend enough, submerge again in water.

Place bent toothbrush in bottom of mug to hold it's shape while it cools. Pour cold water in mug and remove your new bracelet.

- **Coffee Ground Fossil:** Create your own fossils with a little bit of coffee grounds and a lot of fun.

What you'll need:

1 cup of used coffee grounds
1/2 cup of cold coffee
1 cup of flour
1/2 cup of salt
Wax paper
Mixing bowl
Some small objects to make impressions in the dough
Empty can or a butter knife
Toothpicks, optional
String to hang your fossil

How to make it:

Stir the together the coffee grounds, cold coffee, flour, and salt until well mixed.

Knead the dough together and then flatten it out onto the waxed paper. Use the can to cut out circles of the dough or

use the dull knife to cut slabs large enough to fit your "fossil" objects.

Press your objects firmly into the dough. When you take the object out, you have your "fossil". If you want to hang the fossil, poke holes into the edge to hold the string. Let the fossil dry overnight and then hang it if you wish. The longer they hang the harder they become.

• Capri Sun Beach Bag: Don't throw away those old Capri-Sun packets! You can use them to make a nice bag to take to the beach.

What you will need:

18-27 (more if you want the bag bigger) Capri Sun or likewise juice pouches
Thread in your color of choice
Double-stick tape
Sewing Machine
A little patience

How to make it:

Remove the excess liquid from the pouches. Get a dish towel and a rolling pin. Place the towel on a table and put the drink pouch on top of it. Roll the drink pouch flat like you would pizza dough. You need to drink and flatten out approximately 27 pouches or more depending on how large you want your bag. And less if you want the bag to be smaller, like a purse size.

Piece together the pattern of the purse with double stick tape. With a sewing machine, sew four pouches with the bottom of the pouch to the top of another pouch. This will be the bottom of the purse. Use a zigzag pattern so it will be stronger.

Sew three pouches together side by side. Repeat that step for the other side of the purse. The picture above used 3 by 3 pouches for the sides, but you can have virtually as many or as few as you want

Sew each side to the middle two pieces of the bottom. Bend the end pieces of the bottom up to meet the sides of the purse. Sew the seams closed. This creates a box of Capri Sun.

Sew the last three remaining pouches together, just like the sides of the purse.

Attach this new piece to a long side of the box you have already created. This creates a closing flap to the purse. Use a ribbon or fabric to make a strap and put snaps on the flap to close the purse if you choose.

HAPPY EARTH DAY!

To live a more "earth-friendly" life year 'round, go to Natural and Sustainable to learn about ways to help save the environment now and change you life for the better every day.