

Wild Families



Learning about & looking after nature

Make a Rubbish fish

VNPA ACTIVITY SHEET

Make your own rubbish fish!

THIS IS A FUN WAY TO USE UP ANY PLASTIC BOTTLES, MILK CARTONS OR EVEN ALUMINIUM CANS YOU HAVE, AS WELL AS OTHER PLASTIC AND CARDBOARD WASTE.

MAKE YOUR FAVOURITE TYPE OF FISH OR INVENT YOUR OWN – IT CAN BE ANY SHAPE, SIZE AND COLOUR YOU CAN IMAGINE!

You will need:

- ☐ Clean recyclables/household waste (paper or cardboard, plastic bottles, disposable cutlery etc.).
- ☐ Adhesive e.g. masking tape, tacky craft glue (not PVA), or a hot glue gun to attach fins and eyes (be careful not to touch the glue/glue gun tip).
- ☐ Paper scraps (e.g. old wrapping paper, craft square offcuts, toilet paper wrappers).
- ☐ Extra PVA/craft glue for sticking on paper 'fish skin', and to use as a top-coat to protect your project.
- ☐ Acrylic poster paints.
- ☐ Googly eyes (or other craft materials to decorate your fish with creature features).

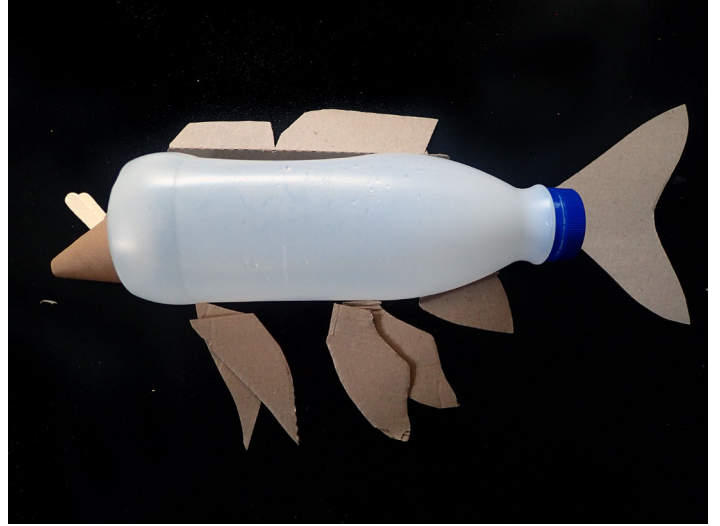
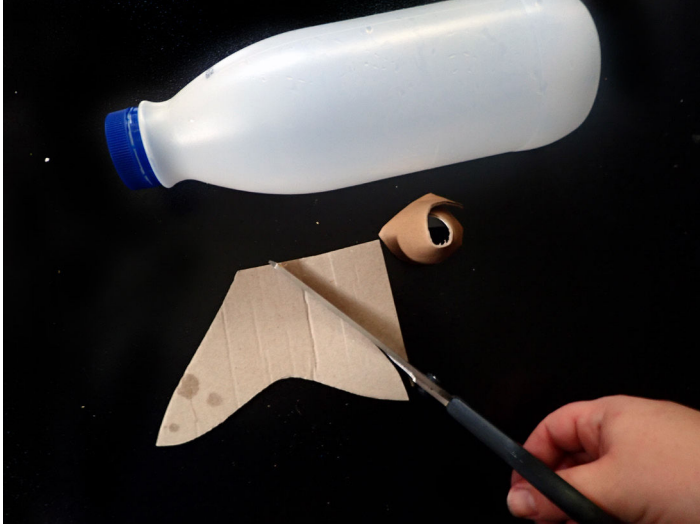
Steps

1. Collect your recyclable and waste materials- plastic bottles and milk cartons make good fish bodies, cardboard for fins and other features. Clean the inside of any bottles and leave to dry.

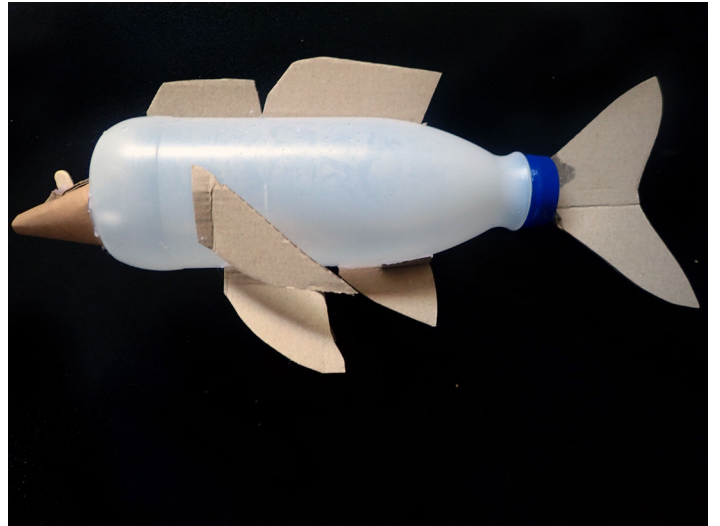
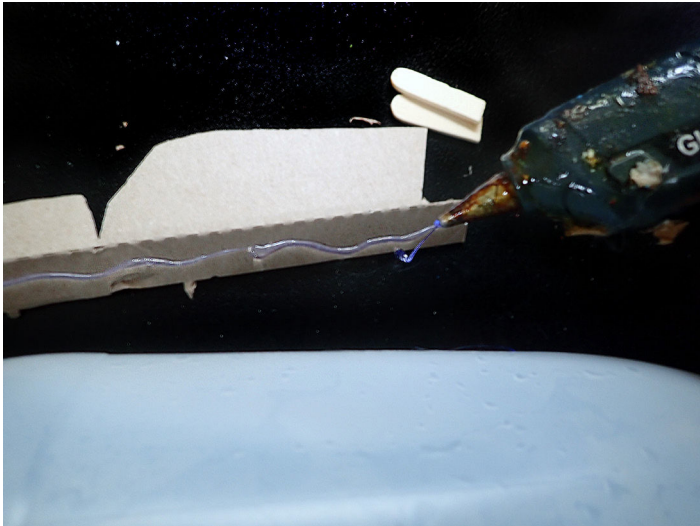


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2. Cut out the fins, tail and head shapes and work out where you'd like to attach them.



3. Stick the body parts on your fish using glue or tape. If using tacky craft glue, wait for the glue to dry before moving on. Note: PVA glue will not work very well for attaching fins to round bottles!



4. Put a hole in the base of the fish and insert a bamboo skewer (blunt end first) and glue in place so your fish can stand up in the ground. Or, put a hole in the tail/dorsal fin if you want to hang your fish with string instead.



5. Tear up strips of paper to cover your fish frame.



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6. Use PVA glue to stick the paper all over the fish. Make sure any plastic is completely covered.



7. Using white poster paint, put a base layer of paint down. Or, if you use colourful paper in step 6 there is no need to paint. You could even cut your scraps into 'scales' to give it a real fish skin look.

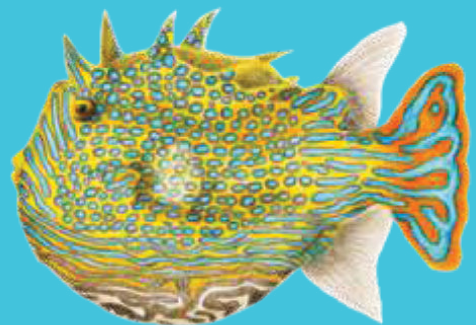


8. Add details and patterns with paint or paper, then attach googly eyes and any other fancy features. All done! You can spray with fixative or use a top-coat of PVA glue to seal the fish if you want the paint/paper finish to last longer.



Things to think about when making your fish

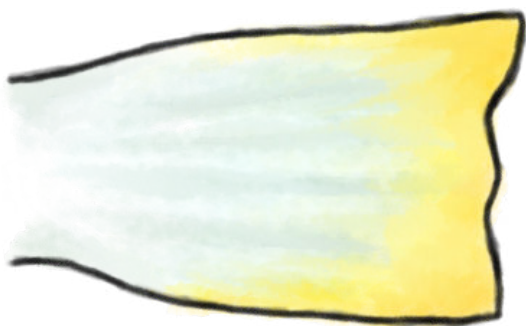
- ☐ How many fins does your fish have?
- ☐ Does it look like most fishes, or is it a different shape? Why do you think that is?
- ☐ Does your fish have spines or big teeth to protect itself?
- ☐ Is your fish brightly coloured or dull coloured? Why do you think that is?
- ☐ Where in the ocean, lakes or rivers do you think your fish would live?
- ☐ If you made up your own fish, what is it called? Why did you choose that name?



Fish Fins

Fish fins come in many different shapes and sizes. Some help a fish swim really fast, while others help disguise it from predators by looking like fronds of seaweed. Here are a few tail fin shapes to inspire you when you are making your fish.

Fish fin illustrations by Nicole Mertens



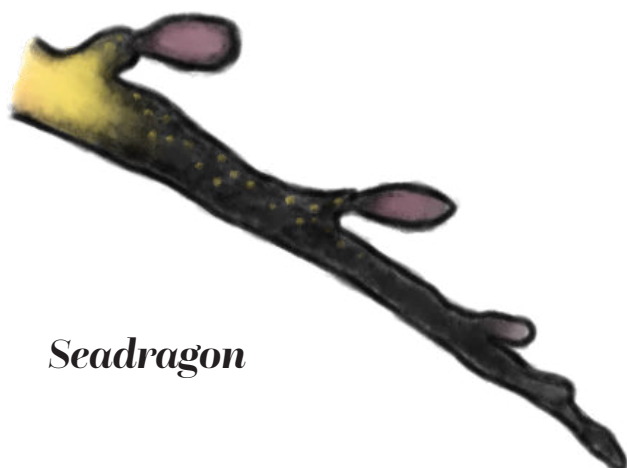
Wrasse



Cowfish



Leatherjacket



Seadragon



Sweep



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