

Conservation Flowers

www.groundwater.org

Upcycled arts and crafts

Upcycling is a fun way to help protect the environment by reusing items that may have been thrown away instead. Reusing an item keeps it from ending up in a landfill where it may take millions of years to decompose. Upcycled conservation flowers are made out of plastic water bottles and each petal represents an easy way to help conserve and protect groundwater.

Key Topic: Contamination/pollution prevention, Groundwater, Water conservation, Water quality

Grade Level: 2 - 8

Duration: 30 - 45 minutes

Objectives:

Learn about conserving and protecting groundwater with

Items Needed:

- An empty plastic water bottle for each student
- 8 different colored acrylic paints
- Scissors
- Paint brushes
- Hole punch
- Permanent marker
- String
- Wood stick
- Glue
- Sequins, beads, paper, glitter, or gems



www.groundwater.org
1-800-858-4844

Activity Steps:

1. Clean the plastic water bottle. Remove any labeling.
2. Cut the water bottle in half. Recycle the bottom half of the bottle.
3. Cut eight petals by cutting from the middle of the bottle towards the cap. Make sure to cut all the way to the edge of the cap. Round the edges.
4. Press the petals out and flatten them to make the bottle look like a flower.
5. Paint each petal a different color to represent the different ways to protect and conserve groundwater. Add glitter for fun. Below is an example of paint colors and their corresponding conservation activity:

- **Go Native**

Use native plants in your landscape. They look great, and don't need much water or fertilizer.

- **Reduce Chemical Use**

Use fewer chemicals around your home and yard, and make sure to dispose of them properly - don't dump them on the ground.

- **Don't Let It Run**

Shut off the water when brushing your teeth, and don't let it run while waiting for it to get cold. Keep a pitcher of cold water in the fridge instead.

- **Fix the Drips**

Check all the faucets, fixtures, toilets, and taps for leaks and fix them right away.

- **Shower Smarter**

Limit yourself to just a five minute shower, and challenge your family members to do the same.

- **Water Wisely**

Water plants during the coolest part of the day and only when they truly need it. Make sure you, your family and neighbors obey any watering restrictions.

- **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle**

Reduce the amount of "stuff" you use and reuse what you can. Recycle paper, plastic, cardboard, glass, aluminum and other materials.

- **Learn More!**

Get involved in water education! Learn more about groundwater, visit www.groundwater.org.

-
6. Cover the cap with beads, gems, sequins, paper, or paint to represent the pistil/stamen.
 7. Use a paper hole punch and string to make the flower an ornament or use a wooden stick and glue to create a decorative flower for potted plants.
 8. Use the permanent marker to write down what each color stands for on the unpainted side

