

Making Something from Nothing

"Sometimes the things you throw away or recycle can make a really cool piece of art."

- 29 Pieces Education student



Portrait of Cesar Chavez is created from cardboard, colored paper, dry beans, and black marker.



Above: Art supplies for IMAGINE Lesson are white paper, colored markers, transparent tape and colored paper.



Above: Art supplies for EMPATHY Lesson are grocery bag, buttons, plastic bubbles, cardboard and tempera paint.

Left: Art supplies for IF Lesson are cardboard strawberry box, cardboard scraps, paper scraps, black marker and colored markers.

SEE THINGS IN A NEW WAY

It's important for every young artist to understand and experience the depth of creativity, ingenuity, and cleverness that they possess — no matter what their history or socio-economic background.

If we are talking about the creation of art, it is reassuring to students to discover that they do not need a two ton piece of marble, a \$3,000 computer system, or even an expensive set of colored pencils to make powerful and beautiful art. All of us, no matter what our resources, are capable of beauty, expression and creativity, using the simplest of free or inexpensive materials, such as you see on these and the next two pages.

And as the students learn about Great Peacemakers like Mahatma Ghandi, Cesar Chavez, Mother Teresa, and Jeremy Gilley (founder of the International Day of Peace) they will see that these great people did not begin their work with a lot of money and resources at their disposal. And yet, they achieved great things, and helped hundreds of thousands or millions of people. What do these great ones possess? Creativity, a desire to help people, tenacity and commitment in sticking with their goals, a belief in fairness and justice, and above all, a sense of compassion, concern and kindness for all. So if these qualities define "greatness", we can all agree that these are qualities that don't cost a penny. And they are qualities that we can all work to develop.

So, suddenly, the things that are free to everyone become the definition of greatness. And in art, that which might be thrown away becomes something we look at and say "Wow! How did you think of that? How beautiful!"

— Karen Blessen, Program Manager, 29 Pieces Education



















Can you find all these materials in the art you see here?

Cardboard Colored papers

Sticks

Netting from fruit bags

Straws Buttons

Varn

Yarn

Bottle caps

Styrofoam bubbles

Chopsticks

Fabric scraps

Paper bag

Pipe cleaners

Wire

Bottle caps

Beads

Sand dollars Bubble wrap

Old jewelry

Ribbon

Crayons

Markers

Wrapping papers

Maps

Feathers Foam bits

Cotton fluff

Twist ties

Cork

Seashells

White chalk

Balsa wood scraps

