

Upcycled Octopus

Activity provided by the SC Green Step Schools Initiative www.greenstepschools.com

Show students how to cut a paper towel tube into an octopus:

- 1) Cut a paper towel tube vertically 7 times $\frac{2}{3}$ of the way up to form 8 arms.
- 2) Draw a face on the $\frac{1}{3}$ uncut portion at the top.
- 3) Roll each arm toward the head to form a curly base.

Use the octopus for an endless array of learning activities. Here are three examples:

- 1) Ask students to write 8 interesting facts about octopuses (not octopi.) One fact should go on each of 8 sticky notes to attach to each arm (not tentacle.) Have each student share a fact, trying to not repeat a fact already given. Tally how many different facts the class gathered. Tally which facts were most reported. Discuss which facts were the most surprising.
- 2) Ask students to write 8 interesting facts about themselves. One fact should go on each of 8 sticky notes to attach to each arm. Pair students to learn about each other and then introduce their partner to the group.
- 3) Ask students to teach someone else 8 things about any topic. In this case, recycling. Students can study the lists below to learn what kinds of paper do and don't belong in recycling bins at home and at school. Students can pair up. One student can write an acceptable type of paper on each of 8 sticky notes and attach one to each arm. The other student can write an unacceptable type of paper on each of 8 sticky notes and attach one to each arm. Each pair of students could take their octopuses (and some corresponding samples?) to teach another class how to recycle paper "right."

Acceptable in Recycling Bins

- 1) school paper
- 2) newspaper and magazines
- 3) junk mail
- 4) envelope with or without windows
- 5) post-it notes
- 6) thick cardboard and thin cardboard
- 7) flat paper
- 8) flattened cardboard

Unacceptable in Recycling Bins

- 1) tissue paper
- 2) construction or wrapping paper
- 3) paper plates or cups
- 4) envelopes with padding or bubble wrap
- 5) any paper smaller than post-it notes
- 6) boxes with items inside
- 7) wadded up paper
- 8) boxes not flattened

Notes:

- 1) Need recycling equipment at your school? Check out the 2021-2022 grants from [SC DHEC School Grant Applications](#) which will be posted in August. Funding up to \$1,500 is designated for equipment/supplies related to recycling and/or composting
- 2) Want to earn a SC Green Step School Conserve: Recycle Award for your school? Contact: janehillier@gmail.com to get started. Then take pictures or videos to document students learning from an adult, doing the recycling and teaching others.