

MAKE YOUR OWN NATURE-FRIENDLY CLOTH BAG!

Plastic and paper bags are usually only used once or twice before they are thrown in the trash. But a reusable bag is one you can use again and again! Give new life to your favorite old t-shirt by turning it into your favorite new bag.

 **LET'S MAKE A BAG!**

 **TIME TO DECORATE!**

 **IRON-ON PRINTOUTS**



LET'S MAKE A BAG!

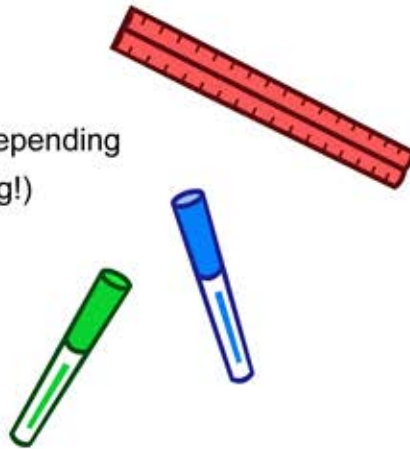
DIFFICULTY: MEDIUM

When we bring our own reusable bags with us shopping, we make less plastic and paper trash that can be harmful to nature. Make this reusable cloth bag to bring on your next shopping trip and use it to collect treasures on your next nature adventure!



MATERIALS

- Old t-shirt (any size works, depending on how big you want your bag!)
- Fabric markers
- Chalk or fabric pencil
- Ruler (optional)
- Fabric scissors



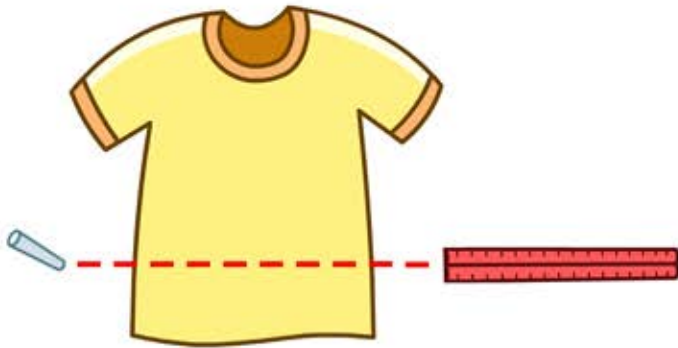
INSTRUCTIONS

- 1** Cut the sleeves off an old t-shirt. (See Step 1 photo)
- 2** Using chalk (or fabric pencil) draw a mark on each shoulder of the shirt (close to the collar), two to three inches from where the sleeve was cut off.
- 3** Using your ruler and chalk, draw a line (anywhere from 5 - 8 inches) down from each mark.

STEP 1



- 4 Connect the bottoms of each line to create a line straight across the shirt. This will be the opening of your bag. (See Step 4 photo)
- 5 Cut along your rectangle (through both sides of the shirt). (See Step 5 photo)
- 6 Measure three inches from the bottom of the shirt and draw a mark.



- 7 Using your mark as a guide, draw a straight line across the bottom of the shirt. This will be the bottom of your bag!
- 8 Cut a line from the bottom, through both sides of the shirt, all the way to the line you just drew. Make several cuts, one inch apart from each other, until the entire bottom of your shirt is strips of connected fabric. (See Step 8 photo)



STEP 4



STEP 5



STEP 8



- 9 Close the bottom of your bag by tying each strand from one side of the shirt to the other side of the shirt in tight double knots! (See Step 9 photo)
- 10 Turn your bag inside out (so the knots are on the inside) and tah-dee! You have your own nature-friendly cloth bag! (See Step 10 photo)



STEP 9



STEP 10



**NEXT STEP:
DECORATE YOUR BAG!**

TIME TO DECORATE!

Let nature inspire you! Decorate your bag however you would like. You can use fabric markers and create your own nature-iffic design. Or you can print out an iron-on of Nature Cat, Squeeks, Daisy, Hal, Ronald or even the Nature Cat logo.



MATERIALS

- Character printout
- Wax crayons
- Iron
- Ironing board
- Newspaper
- Plain paper



IRON-ON INSTRUCTIONS

NOTE: ADULT SUPERVISION REQUIRED

- 1** Print out the iron-on of your choice!
- 2** Using wax crayons, press down hard and trace the outline of your favorite character directly on top of the printout. (See Step 2 photo)
- 3** Lay newspaper on your ironing board and place plain paper on top of it.

STEP 2



Nature CAT

- 4 Place the printout, colored side down, onto the bag and cover it with another sheet of plain paper to protect the iron. Lay the bag on top of the paper on your ironing board. Make sure the bag is as flat as possible.
- 5 Place the printout, colored side down, onto the bag and cover it with another sheet of plain paper to protect the iron. (See Step 5 photo)
- 6 After ironing for about 30 seconds, your Nature Cat iron-on should be ready! Have an adult slowly peel the colored page away! If you can see the character on the fabric, continue to peel off the paper. Tah deel! (See Step 6 photo)



- 7 If your image isn't as dark or colorful as you'd like, you can color directly on the fabric and repeat steps 2 through 6.



STEP 5



STEP 6



STEP 7





IRON-ON PRINTOUT: NATURE CAT





IRON-ON PRINTOUT: DAISY





IRON-ON PRINTOUT: HAL





IRON-ON PRINTOUT: NATURE CAT LOGO





IRON-ON PRINTOUT: RONALD





IRON-ON PRINTOUT: SQUEEKS

