

## Recycled Plastic Bottle Flowerpots

Recommended ages: All

This activity involves reusing plastic bottles to create the flowerpots. The pots can be painted, several layers may be required depending on thickness of paint or how well it adheres to the plastic. This lesson could be tied in with other lessons by creating a theme on what the students paint on the pots. This lesson plan can be adapted for all ages and stages by having an adult perform the cutting.

You will need:

- Plastic bottles
- Scissors and/or craft knife
- Paper towels/tea towel
- Paint brushes
- Acrylic paint
- Pot of water (for cleaning paint brushes)
- Palette (for mixing paint colours)

If required:

- Newspaper
- Gardening string/twine
- Hairdryer

Step by step instructions:

Rinse out the bottles and remove any labels.

Stand the bottles upside down on paper towel or tea towel to drain any excess water.

Using scissors or a craft knife carefully cut the bottles in half to make them into flowerpots and make some drainage holes in the bottom, 3 or 4 should be sufficient.

If you will be attaching the flowerpots to a fence to create a vertical garden, don't forget to make two holes on one side. This is where the garden string/twine will thread through.

Before painting you may wish to protect the table/surface with newspaper or something similar.

Using acrylic paint and paint brushes students can begin painting the flowerpots. It is advisable to do several thin layers. What the

students paint could be based on a theme or other subject you are teaching.

If required use a hairdryer to dry the paint before adding a new layer.

Don't forget to rinse the paint brushes in a pot of water in between using different colours. A palette could also be used for mixing colours.

Once the students have finished painting the flowerpots and they are fully dried the garden string/twine can be threaded through, if required.

The recycled plastic bottle flowerpots are now ready.

Please see lesson plan "Creating Vertical Gardens" for further information.