

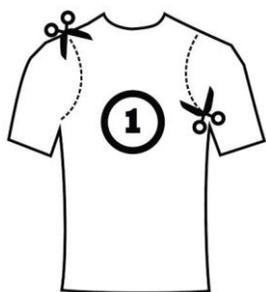
# RECYCLING RECESS

MAKE SOMETHING; MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

## NO SEW TEE SHIRT TOTE BAG

Supplies: old tee shirt, scissors, marker or pen (optional)

*Be sure to check with an adult before turning your shirt into a bag!*



Place your t-shirt on a flat surface. Use your scissors to cut the sleeves from the shirt along the shoulder seam.

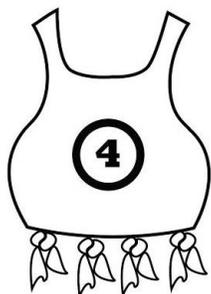


Cut the neck off of the shirt. This will be the opening of the bag. You can draw a scoop on with a pen or marker first, if you'd like.

*Tip: If you do not want a fringe bottom bag, turn your shirt inside out now. That way any pattern on your bag will show when your bag is done.*



Cut several one- to two-inch slits, long enough to tie into knots at the bottom of the shirt. Cut longer slits if the shirt is big so that it doesn't stretch too much.



Line the fringes up and tie each piece to its match in a square knot: right over left, then knot; left over right, then knot. This will keep your bag from coming undone. Leave the fringes showing or return your bag to right side out for a flat bottom look.

**THAT'S IT! YOUR TOTE IS FINISHED AND READY TO USE. HAPPY SHOPPING!**



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Illustrations by Tramaine Dion/Friends of the National Zoo

# RECYCLING RECESS

## WILDLIFE CONNECTIONS

When we reduce what we consume, repurpose what we have, or recycle items we no longer need, we help protect animal habitats all over the world. These everyday actions help reduce demand for the resources needed to create new products.

Single-use plastic products, like plastic bags, are a big threat to wildlife—particularly, aquatic animals and migratory birds. To a sea turtle, a floating plastic bag and a jellyfish look almost identical!

The good news is, we can help! Our decisions can help reduce the amount of single-use plastic products that enter into our environment. When we choose to bring along a reusable product—like a tote bag, utensils, or a water bottle—instead of using a single-use plastic version, we take an important step in preventing plastic pollution from entering our waterways.

### RECYCLING RECESS CHALLENGES

In Washington, DC, customers pay a five-cent bag fee to take home a single-use plastic bag with their purchase. What steps could your community take to reduce single-use plastic products?

What was the last single-use plastic product you or your family used? Is there a sustainable alternative available? What steps could you take to make the sustainable option your first choice?

How might you respond to someone who uses a single-use plastic water bottle, but says, “I don’t need a reusable bottle, I will reuse my plastic bottle when I’m done with it”?

What are some other ways you could repurpose items you already have, instead of recycling them or throwing them away?

Learn more about Smithsonian’s National Zoo at our [website](https://nationalzoo.si.edu) (<https://nationalzoo.si.edu>)!



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