

CITIZENSHIP

Teacher's Guide: GRADE 7 - Lesson 4

DIY Wind Chimes

Competency (according to TLS), Element and Performance Criteria

- **Element 4:** Solve problems with empathy and integrity to address personal, societal and environmental issues.
- **Performance Criteria 2 Level 1:**
 - Discuss possible examples of empathetic and integrity-driven solutions to environmental issues.
- **Performance Criteria 2 Level 2:**
 - Discuss the importance of integrity-based approaches in solving environmental challenges.

Purpose of activity

This hands-on activity aims to foster environmental awareness among students by encouraging them to creatively repurpose everyday waste materials. Through the process of designing and constructing wind chimes using upcycled items, students will explore the concept of sustainability, learn the value of reusing materials, and express their creativity in a meaningful way.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the lesson, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of upcycling and its environmental benefits.
- Apply creative thinking to transform waste materials into functional art.
- Collaborate and share ideas in a creative setting.
- Reflect on the importance of reducing waste and protecting the environment.

Resources and Materials for part 1 of the activity

- String, twine, or fishing line
- A tree branch, stick, ruler (max 30 cm), or an old clothes hanger
- Markers, paint, stickers, or coloured tape for decoration
- Scissors
- Old metal keys or buttons
- Plastic bottles (only the top half, including the cap)

Teaching trajectories/ Implementation guidelines

It is recommended to provide students enough time for discussion and sharing. This activity may be extended over 2 or more periods.

Step 1: Creating the Chime Frame

- Begin by selecting your frame material: a clean tree branch, stick, ruler, or hanger.
- Smooth out any rough edges to ensure safety.
- Decorate the frame using paint, markers, or colored tape to personalize it and make it visually appealing.
- This frame will serve as the top support for your wind chime.

Step 2: Prepare the hanging strings

- Cut 4 to 6 pieces of string in varying lengths (between 15–30 cm).
- Attach a metal key or button to one end of each string.
- Carefully poke a hole in the center of each plastic bottle cap using a nail or pen.
- Thread each string through the hole in the cap so that the key or button hangs inside the bottle.
- Secure the string by tying multiple knots outside the cap to keep it in place.
- These bottle tops will act as the chime bells.

Step 3: Assemble the Wind Chime

- Tie the free ends of the strings to the frame at evenly spaced intervals.
- Ensure the bottles are positioned so they can move freely and gently collide to produce sound.
- Adjust spacing as needed to optimize the chime effect.

Step 4: Add decorative Elements

- Use markers, paint, and stickers to decorate the bottles and strings.
- Encourage students to express their personality and creativity through their designs

Step 5: Test and Adjust

- Hang the wind chime in a safe indoor location (e.g., near a window or fan).
- Gently move the chimes to test the sound.
- Make adjustments to string lengths or spacing if the chimes do not touch or produce sound effectively.

