



102 - Climate Change Challenge WebQuests

Taking the Upcycling Challenge



**Building Problem-solving Skills of Youth to Address
Environmental and Climate Change Issues**

IO2 – Climate Change Challenge WebQuests

WebQuest Theme: Taking the Upcycling Challenge

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| TIME ALLOCATED: | 5 hours |
| TITLE OF THE WEBQUEST: | An Upcycling Future for Old Furniture and Objects |
| INTRODUCTION | |
| <p>Recycling practices are definitely the most popular ecological action people undertake nowadays. However, recycling may not be the answer to protect our environment from waste. Recycling practices are often quite expensive and require specific infrastructures.</p> <p>So, what's new in the ecological world? What's better than recycling? Upcycling is the answer! As the word itself says, with upcycling we go further up than recycling. Thanks to this practice we can modify old products and give them a second life. Upcycling is different from recycling because it doesn't mean breaking down materials but rather sorting and reusing them in a different and more fashionable way. It is a way to "upgrade" old objects.</p> <p>Upcycling products can also help to reduce costs and expenses, as you will save money on the original planned purchase of a new product. The creative aspects of upcycling are exciting and there are no limits. You have already noticed how trendy sofas made out of used wood pallets are now cropping up in local bars and restaurants. This is just one thing you can do, but there are so many ways that you can reuse your products. All it takes is some creativity!</p> | |
| TASK | |
| <p>You regularly attend the activities of the youth centre in your town. You spend time there with your friends and other students, so much so that it has become a very important place for you.</p> <p>This year the director of the centre wants to renew the common rooms and has decided to directly involve its students by asking them to propose their ideas to update the centre's interior. A "call for tender" is launched by the centre; only the best project will be selected and will be taken into account to give a fresher appearance to the centre. The new project must be creative, useful and cheap to put in place.</p> | |



You and your friends want to take this challenge. You heard about upcycling and think that using this practice would be ecological and fun, as it will allow you to give a new life to old materials/furniture and to unleash your creativity. In addition, there are a number of old objects in the centre's basement that you could use for your project. So, you decide to go for the upcycling option. But where to start from? Don't worry, the following steps of this WebQuest will drive you through the upcycling process!

PROCESS

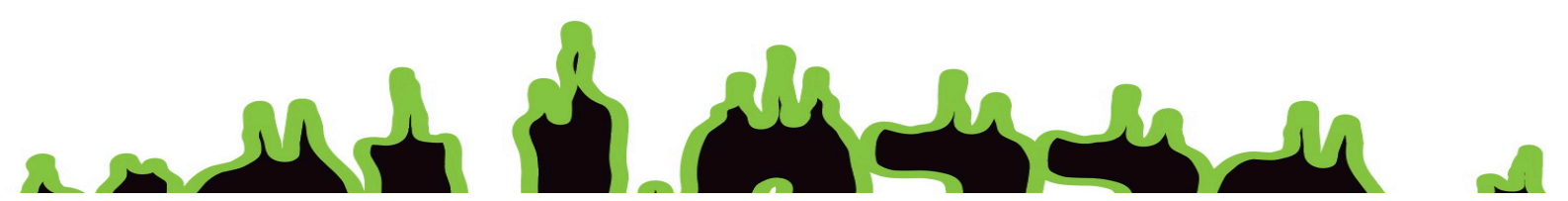
Step 1: Getting started with upcycling.

You are very excited to search for creative ecological solutions to updating the interior of your favourite youth centre. You and your team have numerous ideas about the colours, the furniture and the use of the space. You know that upcycling can be a brilliant option for your project, but you need to know more about it if you want to convince the director of the centre about the effectiveness of your project.

The best place to start from is to find out why upcycling is important, what its benefits for you and the planet are and then to discover best upcycling ideas for interiors and how to implement your upcycling project.

Luckily, you have your laptops and smartphones with you! Working together with your team, you will have to do some online research that will provide you with information on what upcycling is and its advantages. You can start your research from the links below and extend it by looking for more information about upcycling, or on local websites in your language:

- Upcycling Definition: <https://youmatter.world/en/definition/upcycling/>
- Five Benefits of Upcycling: <https://www.paulsrubbish.com.au/5-benefits-of-upcycling/>
- From Landfill To Living Room: The Upcycling Revolution: <https://www.independent.ie/lifestyle/from-landfill-to-living-room-the-upcycling-revolution-29842916.html>
- Upcycling evolves from recycling: <https://www.nytimes.com/2010/11/04/business/energy-environment/04iht-rbogup.html>



- Top 80 Upcycling Blogs and Websites on the Web in 2020: https://blog.feedspot.com/upcycling_blogs/
- The Difference Between Upcycling Vs Recycling: <https://rebornrubber.com/blogs/news/the-difference-between-upcycling-vs-recycling>
- The Art Of Upcycling: <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/09/partner-content-the-art-of-upcycling/>

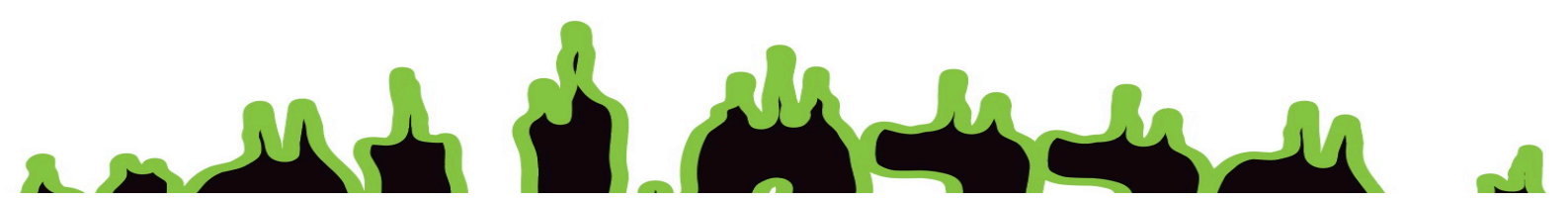
After completing this research, the members of your group will ask the following questions for reflection on the topic:

1. How often have you thrown away objects or furniture that you could have upcycled instead?
2. Have you thought of objects in your home that you could upcycle?
3. Have you already been in a house, garden, shop, restaurant or bar with upcycled objects? What objects did you notice?
4. Do you think that upcycling could help in reducing waste?
5. Would you be able to upcycle your old objects?
6. Why is upcycling more effective than recycling?

Step 2: Upcycling ideas and techniques

Now that you have improved your knowledge on upcycling and its advantages for renewing an interior, you can now move to the next step: the best solutions and techniques to create beautiful furniture and decorations by giving a new life to old objects. There are a number of websites proposing interesting upcycling ideas for objects and furniture, you can start your research from the following online pages:

- The Joy of Upcycling Designs Brings New Life to Old Rubbish: <https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/gallery/2014/may/15/the-joy-of-upcycling-design-brings-new-life-to-old-rubbish-in-pictures>
- 38 Genius Trash-to-Treasure Crafts That Will Save You So Much Money: <https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/home/craft-ideas/how-to/g139/genius-upcycling-ideas/?slide=20>
- 15 Incredible Upcycling Furniture Ideas: <https://blog.manomano.co.uk/upcycled-furniture-ideas/>
- 20 Upcycled Furniture Ideas Breathing New Life Into An Exhausted Piece of Furniture: <https://cutediyprojects.com/repurpose/best-upcycled-furniture-ideas/>



One of the best platforms for finding interesting visual contents online is Pinterest. This platform allows you to upload your favourite images and videos into personalised folders to use them or visit the websites linked to them whenever you like. Here are some photos of upcycled objects and furniture we found on Pinterest:

- Upcycled Furniture Ideas: <https://www.pinterest.ca/adelleonfire/upcycled-furniture-ideas/>
- Upcycled Furniture: <https://www.pinterest.fr/loucrabtree/upcycled-furniture/>
- Ingenious Upcycling Ideas: <https://www.pinterest.fr/saveup/ingenious-upcycling-ideas/>
- Crafts Upcycled Materials: <https://www.pinterest.fr/donnaberlanda/crafts-upcycled-materials/>

With your team, create an “Upcycling” folder on your Pinterest account and look for at least 5 photos of upcycled objects that you would like to use for your youth centre project. Then save these images in your “Upcycling” folder. Each member of your group can conduct this research on their Smartphone or laptop. If you don’t have a Pinterest account yet, you can create one in few minutes by using this link:

- Pinterest: www.pinterest.com

All of these upcycled furniture ideas look perfect to you! But you are wondering, how to achieve the same standard by upcycling a chair or a lamp? Now, you need to search for practical tips for upcycling interior items. With your team, search for the best upcycling techniques. Remember, you can use both website pages and Pinterest images. Have a look at what we found here and look for more tips according to your preferences:

- Upcycling for beginners: 11 things to know: <https://www.housebeautiful.com/uk/renovate/upcycle/a1911/upcycling-beginners/>
- How to Get Started with Upcycling in 5 Easy Steps: <https://www.beehiveit.co.uk/how-to-get-started-with-upcycling-in-5-easy-steps/>
- Techniques for Upcycling, Recycling, Repurposing: <https://www.pinterest.fr/tickledpinktony/techniques-for-upcycling-recycling-reppurposing-di/>
- 14 DIY Decorating Tips Using Upcycling Techniques: <https://www.decoist.com/2013-01-23/diy-decorating-tips-upcycling/?chrome=1>
- Upcycling Tips & Tricks + Give Away [VIDEO]: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= CEU5us0Ahs>



- How to upcycle furniture using the wet distressed chalk paint technique:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=11&v=bk2UKn8TZeE&feature=emb_logo

Step 3: What to choose?

Your team has found a wide number of ideas and tips for upcycling interiors. You have all expressed your preferences, sometimes you agree, sometimes you don't. It's now time to get into the planning phase of your project.

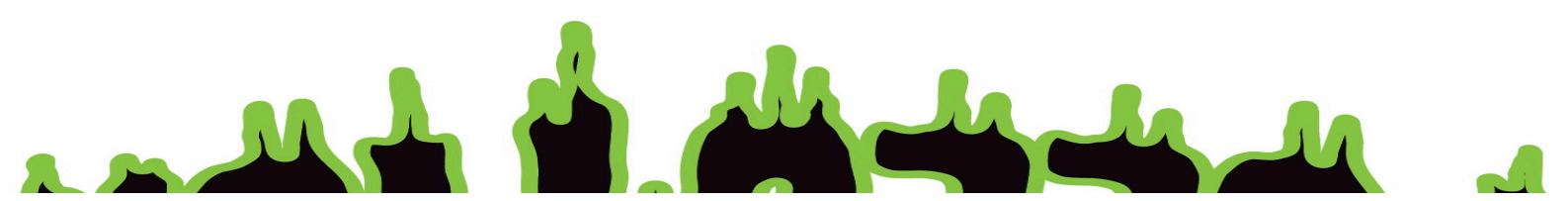
First of all, you need to choose the objects you want to refurbish and make a list with your team. To select the best upcycling ideas, you can run a Pros and Cons activity with your friends. You can use one of the methods and templates proposed in the following websites or look for different ones:

- Argumentative Worksheets : <https://www.pinterest.fr/pin/471822498442070769/>
- Pros and Cons: <https://www.slideserve.com/colt-nelson/pros-cons>
- Activity-based Pros and Cons: <https://www.facilitatemagazine.com/features/feature-articles/2015/09/21/activity-based-pros-and-cons>

Once you have your Pros and Cons table, you can start filling it in by asking the following questions to the members of your team:

1. Is this upcycling idea easy to implement?
2. Is it cheap to create?
3. What materials and tools do we need for it?
4. Is it useful for the centre?
5. Will it be fun to upcycle this item?
6. How long will it take?
7. Is there enough space for this furniture/object in the centre?
8. What about the colour, shape, material of the item? Will it match the centre's design and style?
9. Would the people who are attending activities in the centre like these changes?
10. Would it be practical for them?

Step 4: Designing your project.



Now that you have decided what upcycling ideas you will implement and what objects/furniture you will refurbish, you need to start planning. As you have learned in your research during Step 2, it is a great idea to draw the item before getting started. This will allow you to imagine what the upcycled object will look like once you will have finished and will help you identifying possible improvements and changes. This is the most creative phase of this WebQuest, which will give you a great insight into your final product!

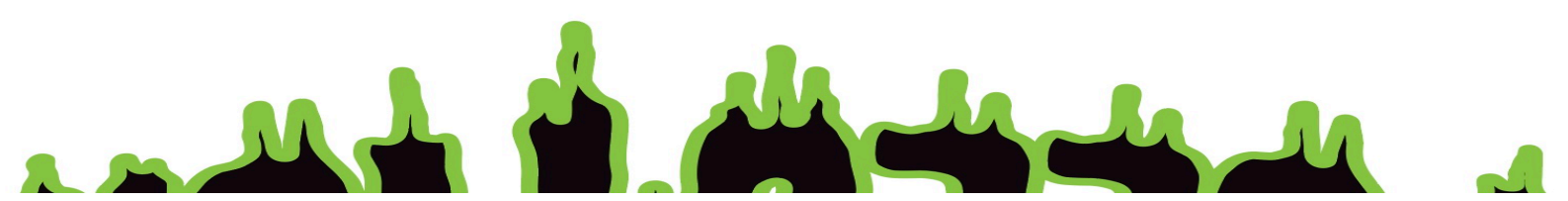
You don't need to be a professional designer to make a first sketch of your new furniture! You can make very simple and basic drawings; the most important thing is to get a general idea of how the new furniture / object will look. You can use Pinterest again or other websites to get inspired and copy the drawing of a chair, table, framework or a flowerpot.

Then you will need to modify the drawing according to your upcycling ideas. Here are some sketches of furniture and objects:

- Furniture Drawing: <https://www.pinterest.fr/hsfcid/furniture-drawing/>
- How to Draw Furniture: <https://www.pinterest.ca/kashaw45/how-to-draw-furniture/>
- Drawing objects: <https://www.pinterest.fr/bradford1011/1-drawing-objects/>

Whether you want to reinvent unwanted materials or transform old ones into something new, a good idea is to draw the old object/furniture in the Before box and draw the upcycled idea into the After box. This will demonstrate what you can achieve through upcycling. You can use the template here below for that:

| BEFORE | AFTER |
|--------|-------|
| | |



To complete this table, each member of your team will draw the old version (BEFORE) and the upcycled version (AFTER) of a furniture or object you have selected in Step 3. If you have difficulties in drawing, you can ask your friends for help. Once all the drawings are ready, they will be presented to the team and you will run a short evaluation session to make sure that the drawings clearly highlight the difference between the old version and the new one. If some of the drawings don't show this difference, they can be corrected by the team.

The next step is to place these furniture and objects in the centre. Working together with your team, you will draw a plan of the centre's common room and place the furniture that you have selected and drawn, in the best place in the room.

Step 5: A Persuasive Presentation for a Winning Project.

Since the beginning of this WebQuest you have learned a lot about upcycling, why it is important to use this ecological technique and what its advantages are. But bear in mind that if you want to be selected for the restyle of new centre, you need to convince the director that your project is the best and that upcycling techniques will bring great benefits to the centre and to the environment.

The best way to present your project is to create a persuasive presentation that will illustrate your project idea and will explain why you chose to use upcycling. Your presentation will include the list of furniture and objects, its drawings and the plan of the common room of the centre, where the furniture will be placed.

You know that presentations can be very boring sometimes and you don't want to miss the chance to get your idea chosen! So, you will need to use effective methods and attractive digital tools for presenting your project that will convince the director about the quality of your idea. With your team, do some research on the best techniques for creating and giving a presentation, you can start from here:

- Persuasive Presentation: <https://venngage.com/blog/persuasive-presentation/>
- 10 Tips for Making a Persuasive Presentation: <https://blog.prezi.com/10-tips-for-making-a-persuasive-presentation/>



- How to give a Persuasive Presentation: <https://www.americanexpress.com/en-us/business/trends-and-insights/articles/how-to-give-a-persuasive-presentation-tips/>
- 7 ways to make Presentations more Convincing: <https://www.inc.com/geoffrey-james/7-ways-to-make-presentations-more-convincing.html>

And for the presentation software, have a look at these links and look for more until you find one that suits you best:

- Prezi: <https://prezi.com/>
- Beautiful: <https://www.beautiful.ai/>
- Intuiface: <https://discover.intuiface.com/go/presentation-software>
- Emaze
https://www.emaze.com/presentations/?gclid=EAlaIqobChMI_KOjifW96wIVjtd3Ch1pmwvjEAAYAiAAEgITrvD_BwE

Once you have completed your presentation, take 10 minutes to double check possible errors or typing mistakes.

Then, you and your team will rehearse the presentation to make sure that you can convince the director to choose your project! For some inspiration about effective public speaking, look for articles and videos on the Internet, here are some links you can start from:

- Public Speaking: <https://www.mindtools.com/CommSkill/PublicSpeaking.htm>
- Dos and Don'ts about Presenting in Public: <https://medium.com/@verovaleros/dos-and-donts-about-presenting-in-public-a0dbf8ad6518>
- Julian Treasure: Comment Parler Pour Que Les Gens Veulent Écouter: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=elho2S0Zahl&feature=emb_logo

You and your team have worked really hard to complete this WebQuest. Well done!

EVALUATION

After completing the WebQuest, it is important that the educator proposes a short session to reflect on what participants have learned throughout these activities. The educator will ask the learners consider some of the following questions:



1. What did I accomplish?
2. What is important about what I did?
3. Where could I use it again?
4. Are there patterns in my work / in my behaviour?
5. How can I use this knowledge in my future work?

CONCLUSION

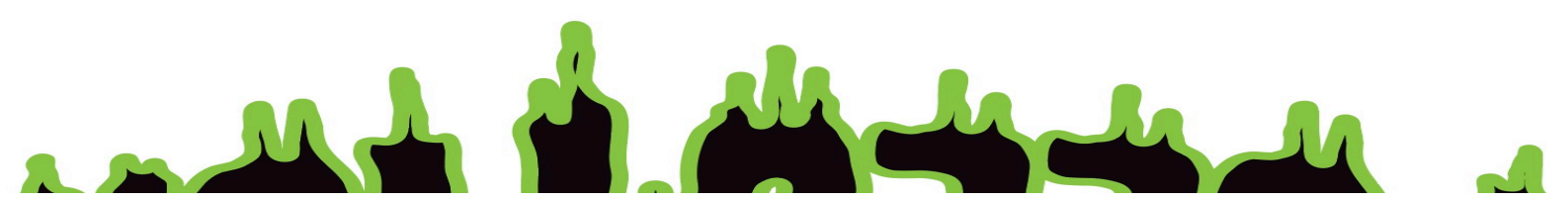
Good job! You have completed “An Upcycling Future for Old Furniture and Objects” WebQuest. It was a complex subject, but you and your friends managed to achieve great results thanks to brilliant teamwork! You are now able to plan and implement a project and to convince someone of the quality of your ideas. Making group decisions is no longer challenging for you, and you now have the skills to work with other people for the development of complex projects. Last but not least, you are now fully aware of the practical aspects of using upcycling practices and of the importance of giving a second life to objects to reduce waste and pollution. The future of the youth centre’s interiors is now in your hands!

“Often when you think you’re at the end of something, you’re at the beginning of something else.”

Fred Rogers, Television Personality



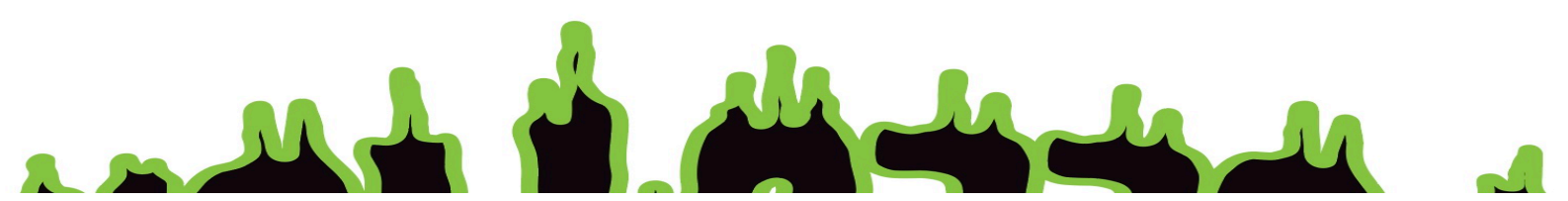
Photo by Pixabay



TUTOR SECTION

On completion of this WebQuest, young people will have achieved the following learning outcomes:

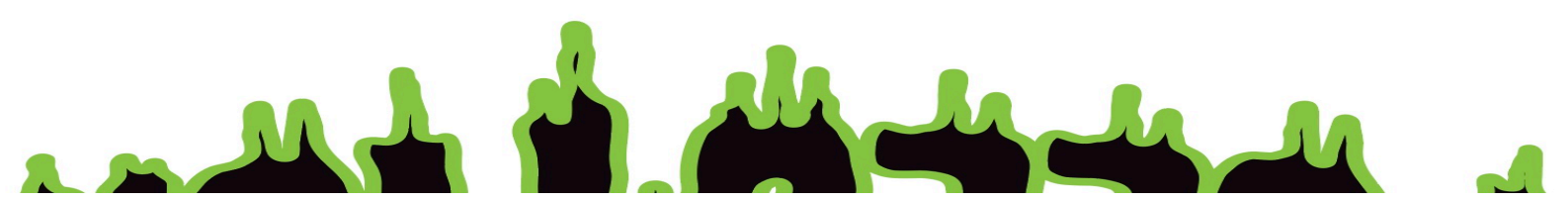
| Knowledge | Skills | Attitudes |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge about the potential of upcycling to prevent pollution/waste and to save money. • Knowledge of the importance to promote upcycling instead of recycling. • Knowledge about how to reduce waste when furnishing and decorating interiors. • Knowledge of the most common and practical upcycling practices. • Knowledge about best Presentation software and how to create persuasive presentations. • Knowledge of the way to run targeted research on the Internet. • Knowledge about planning and designing a recycling project. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the importance of implementing upcycling practices. • Apply upcycling practices to your everyday life. • Plan and design a project with other team members. • Create convincing presentations to promote your project. • Convince about the importance of using upcycling to furnish and renew interiors • Present your project in a clear and persuasive way by using new presentation software. • Speak in public to convince the audience of the quality and innovative aspects of your ideas. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness of the importance of implementing upcycling practices. • Willingness to explore and use environmental practices. • Understanding of the potential aspects of using upcycling rather than recycling. • Awareness of the benefits that upcycling furniture and objects can bring to you and to the environment. • Willingness to share your knowledge about upcycling with your pairs and others. • Understanding of the potential of teamwork to develop a successful project. • Better consciousness of |



| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge about organisation and planning group activities. • Knowledge about decision making in group. • Knowledge about presenting in public. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Run targeted research on the Internet also using useful social media . • Match your creativity to your knowledge in upcycling to design innovative environmental projects. • Collect and select best ideas in a team. | <p>the importance of preparing your presentation in advance and to rehearse before giving the presentation.</p> |
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Questions that a youth worker or teacher might use in a whole class discussion to debrief this WebQuest:

- Do you feel that you have learned more about upcycling from this WebQuest?
- Are there things that weren't clear for you before and that are clear now after completing this WebQuest?
- Was it easy to create your project working as a team?
- What difficulties have you encountered working in group?
- Did you find any information in this WebQuest that is still unclear?
- Do you think that the project you have developed in this WebQuest could have been better if you worked on it by yourself? Why? Why not?
- Was it easy for you to get your voice heard by your teammates?
- Did you have any problem in making decisions when working in group?
- Was it hard for you to rehearse the presentation in front of your teammates?
- What activity of this WebQuest did you enjoy the most?
- In your opinion, what was the most difficult aspect of the activity?
- Would you apply the knowledge you have acquired through this WebQuest to your everyday life?
- Will you use upcycling practices at home?
- Do you think that from doing this WebQuest that you will talk about upcycling and its environmental impact with your friends and/or family?



SOLUTION NOT POLLUTION



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