



NAME: _____ DATE: _____ CLASS: _____

Upcycling Competition: Trash-to-Treasure Challenge

The Challenge: Your class is hosting an Upcycled Product Design Competition, and you are invited to enter the competition! Your challenge is to transform some form of trash into treasure using objects from your home.



Instructions:

1. Bring to the classroom items that you would have thrown into the trash or recycling. If you like, you can trade materials with your classmates.
2. Take a moment to imagine how you can transform your materials into treasure. Consider new and innovative uses for the trash. Think about how you can modify it to give it new life and purpose. Get creative!

Key Questions:

- Do you want to make something practical? artistic? playful? etc.
 - Can you add to, modify, or reinterpret the original materials to make them useful in a new way?
 - How might you change the function of the original materials?
 - Can you remove and use parts of the original item?
 - Can you combine the materials in a unique way?
 - Can you take the materials apart and reassemble them in a different way or break the materials down to their base parts and “recycle” them?
3. As you brainstorm, use the space below to record ALL your ideas for transforming the materials. Don't be shy! You never know what initial ideas may make it into your final design. Do your best to ensure your new creation has a functional purpose!



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4. Taking into consideration your initial ideas, as well as inspirations from other designers, quickly sketch a few design ideas.

5. When you are ready, begin transforming your materials into something new and functional. As you build, don't worry if you stray from the ideas you sketched or if you develop better ideas. Many designers completely change their ideas as they are creating!