Celebrating Earth Day

Did you know that this year is the 50th anniversary of Earth Day? While the official celebration takes place on Wednesday, April 22nd we invite you to enjoy these hands-on activities with your family throughout the spring season!

These activities are inspired not just by Earth Day, but by our exhibit Scrap Yard: Innovators of Recycling. We hope you have a lot of fun trying out these projects in honor of the Earth, the season, and Jewish tradition.

Don’t forget to share photos of you enjoying our crafts and activities on our Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or Tumblr pages and use #MuseumFromHome!
Recycled Flowers

They say April showers bring May flowers, but why wait? These beautiful creations are a great way to brighten up your room, the dinner table, or anywhere in your home. Make a whole bouquet and share with your family!

**Supplies needed:**

- Magazines, newspaper or other very thin papers
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Double-sided tape
- Wooden skewers
Monstrous Hybrids

We learned about monstrous hybrids from Dr. Inna Alesina at Stevenson University. A monstrous hybrid is something that is made of multiple kinds of materials that make it difficult to recycle as-is.

One way to face this kind of challenging item is to re-use or re-purpose it! In this activity you can decorate your very own monstrous hybrid tin can monster – we bet you can think of lots of ways to use your monster. (May we suggest a tin can relay race?)

Supplies needed:

- Tin cans (empty and clean)
- Scissors
- Glue or tape
- Markers or sharpies
Tzedakah Boxes

*Tzedakah boxes from the JMM Collections.*

In challenging times such as these, it’s important to think about how we can support our community, especially those in vulnerable populations. One way we can help our community is through *tzedakah* – collecting money to donate to help those in need. In this activity you can create your own tzedakah box out of recycled materials!

**Supplies needed:**

- Recycled food container
- Knife or sharp scissors
- Glue
- Paper
- Markers
- Craft supplies (buttons, stamps, scrap paper, etc)
Bottle Cap Windchimes

Plastic bottle caps, JMM 2011.28.3a-g.

This Earth Day activity combines recycling with wind power! Create a windchime using bottle caps and other materials from around the house. Then enjoy the wonderful sound of your chimes throughout the day – try out different kinds of materials to see how they sound different!

Supplies needed:

- Plastic lids (bottle tops, lids from jars and milk cartons, etc)
- Beads
- String or yarn
- Needle
- Hammer and nail
Earth Day Extravaganza

Recently we were joined by many families for a special virtual program in partnership with DBJCC and CJE to help get ready for Earth Day! Don’t worry if you missed the live stream because we’ve got a great recording of the program right here for you to follow along and participate with the musical performance. The supplies listed below will help you fully enjoy the musical portion of the program. Plus, we have additional fun activities for you to try!

Supplies needed:

- Plastic buckets or small trashcans
- Plastic spoons, soft mallets, or drumsticks (children 6+)
- Empty, cleaned out bottles (like water bottles)
- Uncooked rice
Keep Discovering

If you are still interested in learning more about how we can better care for our planet check out some of the resources below.

Take a look at our Scrap Yard exhibit website at ScrapYardExhibit.com, and discover the stories of individuals who have worked in the scrap industry.

Use your green thumb to make a planter out of recycled materials. You can use soda bottles, water bottles, tin cans, milk jugs, and more. Make sure to clean out your container first, create holes in the bottom for water to drain, and fill it up with the proper amount of soil and seeds based on the type of plant you chose.

If you’re looking for more ideas about how you can care for the Earth and for others, listen to this song about the Jewish value of Tikkun Olam, which involves doing acts of kindness to help make the world a better place.

Watch this short, entertaining video from the Baltimore County Department of Public Works to learn why you can’t put items like plastic bags and clothes in your recycling bin.

Now that you’ve learned how to recycle better, help protect your local garbage and recycling workers and thank them for the important work they are doing during this difficult time. Help keep these workers safe by following some simple tips like tightly tying your garbage bags shut, putting disposable masks and gloves in the trash and not the recycling bin, and cleaning and sanitizing your collection bins and containers. To thank them for their work, write chalk messages on your driveway or leave a sign outside for them to see.