



Developed with Karen Nobel, West Palm Beach, FL

Volume 60 | Gr. 3–6

Time: Two class periods
(approximately
40 minutes each)

Wax on recycled caps



Objectives

Students will...

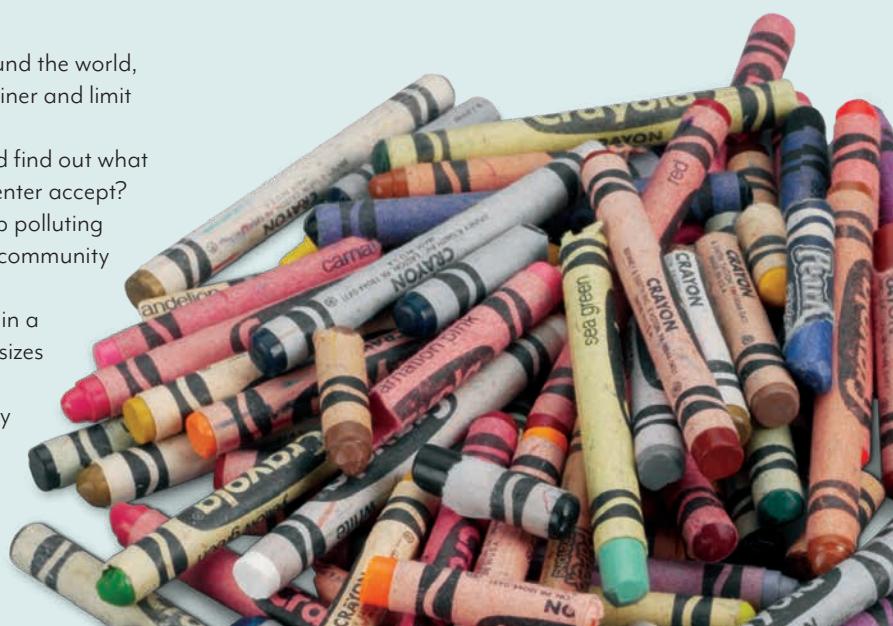
- Participate in a school-wide plastic bottle cap collection
- Create an earth-friendly piece of art that leaves less trash in our landfills
- Use Principles of Design to enhance composition
- Paint with melted crayon wax (encaustic)

Vocabulary

- Earth-friendly
- Representational
- Unity
- Encaustic
- Variety
- Non-representational
- Movement

Connections

- Earth — As the focus of environmental concerns heightens around the world, now is the time to do your part. Buy a reusable beverage container and limit your purchase of plastic bottles.
- Science — Identify the recycling symbols on various plastics and find out what the numbers mean. What numbers does your local recycling center accept?
- Act Locally — Plastic caps do not get recycled and often end up polluting our environment. Find recycling locations for plastic #5 in your community and spread the word.
- Math — Figure out the volume of plastic waste that will end up in a landfill from a case of 1-liter water bottles. Repeat with various sizes and quantities of beverage bottles.
- Reading — Research how long it takes plastic to degrade on dry land and in the ocean. The answers will shock you.
- Master Artist — Introduce a master artist study of any one of the Abstract Expressionists, especially Jasper Johns, who created a series of encaustic paintings.





Introduction

Before introducing this lesson, begin a school-wide plastic bottle cap collection from various plastic beverage containers. Also discuss the reasons why plastic bottle caps do not get recycled and the environmental impact of having these caps in our landfills.

Instructions

1. Select plastic bottle caps from the collection and arrange them on a piece of cardboard of any size. (For a framed piece of art, use chipboard and then frame finished piece.)
2. Arrange caps in either a representational or non-representational design. Encourage a design that has movement and/or variety.
3. Use glue to secure backs of caps to cardboard. Let dry. (If time is limited, caps can be secured using a hot glue gun.)
4. Using acrylic paint, completely cover bottle caps. Let dry.





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5. Collect old crayons and peel off the paper. Break crayons, place them in the wax melter, and wait until completely melted.
6. Use droppers to splatter melted wax on painted caps. (For more precise application of wax, old paint brushes can be used.) Encourage unity when applying color.
7. Celebrate this new earth-friendly masterpiece!



Materials list

- Old crayons
- Various sizes of plastic bottle caps
- Recycled cardboard
- Chipboard ([9734418](#))
- Mat board ([9725855](#))
- Nasco white glue ([9722164](#))
- Hot glue (optional) ([9734945](#) and [9742414](#))
- Nasco Acrylic Paint, Set of 8, 8-oz. bottles ([9705749](#))
- Wax melter ([6500371](#))
- Droppers ([6500372](#))
- Royal Brush® Big Kid's Choice™ Chubby Brushes, Set of 4 Flats ([9730062](#))

