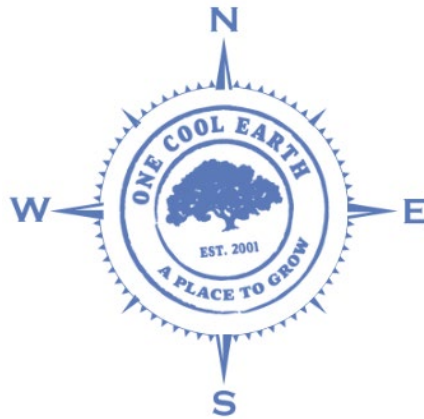


Sewing Beeswax Bags



South: Society

NGSS Standards:

MS-ESS3-3. Apply scientific principles to design a method for monitoring and minimizing a human impact on the environment

Lesson Overview:

In this session, students will learn about various types of plastic and work together to create a reusable sandwich bag.

Materials:

- Beeswax fabrics, from the previous session
- Needles
- Thread
- Buttons or other decoration to add to the bag
- clips

Prep:

Safety first! Keep all needlework during breaks in the product package; Keep all small parts from the set in special bags with a zip lock; When working do not bite through the thread with your teeth or tear it with your hands; Remind students of safety precautions as you are working through this activity. It might be helpful to thread the needle ahead of time for some students. Or, take it as a learning opportunity!

Activity Procedure:

Engage:

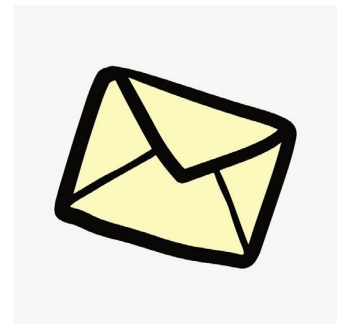
What are you most excited about with our beeswax sandwich bag? Have students share.

Explain:

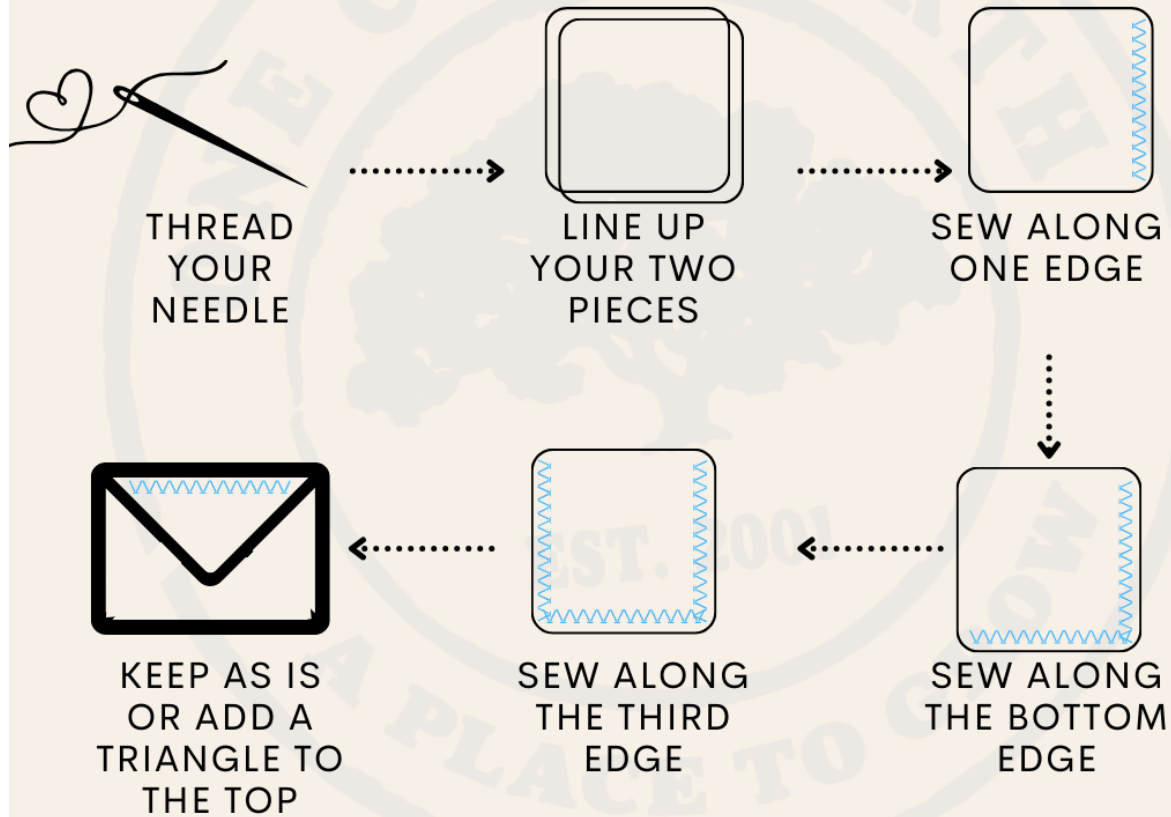
We're going to finish our beeswax bags today by sewing them into an actual bag. We'll use a needle and thread to sew the sides shut. You'll be able to take them home and start using them soon! Who can remind me why we are making these bags? Have two or three students share. Why are we trying to reduce or reuse? Why can't we just recycle plastic sandwich bags? Have students share.

Action: sewing Beeswax Bags

1. Review safety expectations with students. If they don't come up with their own expectations, you can refer to the prep section of this lesson.
2. Show students how to thread their needles. This may take some practice for students.
3. Show students how to place their fabric pieces together so that they are in line. You can use clips to help keep them in place.
4. Sew up one side of your own bag while students watch. Review safety procedures, reminding students that the needle is a tool not a toy.
5. Have one student volunteer to go first, as you coach them on how to sew. Have others watch for a minute or two and then have the next student start. A staggered start is easier to manage!
6. Once students have each of the three sides sewn together, have them create the flap. This flap will not be sewn shut. The end product will look like an envelope of sorts!



ONE COOL EARTH HOW TO SEW BEESWAX BAG



Reflection:

What other things could we make with our beeswax fabric? What is important to remember about plastics and recycling? What is the problem with single use plastics? How can we reduce our plastic use at home? How can we reduce our plastic use at school? How can we reduce our plastic use outdoors and in other areas?

Extensions (optional):

Read *The Secret Life of Bees: Meet the bees of the world, with Buzzwing the honeybee*

Sources:

- [Ditch Plastic — EcoSlo](#)
- [NOAA: What is Marine Debris?](#)

- [New to DIY BEESWAX WRAPS: The Dipping Method - Green Skills Inc](#)

More information around marine debris can be found here: [NOAA Marine Debris resources for Educators](#)

This lesson was prepared by One Cool Earth under the Marine Debris Program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Department of Commerce. The statements, findings, conclusions, and recommendations are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of NOAA or the U.S. Department of Commerce.