

Creative Reuse of Material Culture Items

A group of objects that Mary Mattingly found especially interesting was the large collection of salt cod boxes. She reflected about their original purpose, and the many lives they have led since then as they were repurposed into a different kind of storage box. People repurposed things through history to save money- and many people do it today to save the planet! Take a look at the list of items below. See if you can identify a reusable, greener alternative for each item, and also creative re-use that would give new purpose to what we have already!

Reusable, Greener Alternative	Today's Item	Creative Re-Use & Re-purpose
	plastic bag	
	plastic straw	
	plastic water bottle	
	book	
	loyalty cards	

Did you come up with some great ideas?
 Look at these real life examples from great thinkers just like you!

Reusable, Greener Alternative	Today's Item	Creative Re-Use & Re-purpose
cloth shopping bag	plastic bag	 <p>lining trash cans</p>
bamboo straw or stainless steel straw	plastic straw	 <p>lamp shade</p>
stainless steel or glass water bottle	plastic water bottle	 <p>light source</p>
e-reader or borrow from a library	book	 <p>shelf</p>
digital wallet	loyalty cards	 <p>guitar picks</p>