



Project Idea: Make a Tote

Recommended for Step 4: Craft for form, fit, and function, Choice 2: Make something to simplify life

Setup: Make carrying objects easier with a tote. Use it to carry your tools or school books. Carry supplies for the park or beach.

Materials needed:

- Large T-shirt (white T-shirts will be easier to draw on)
- Fabric markers
- Scissors
- Needle, thread, beads, ribbon, fabric, or patches for decoration (optional)
- Ruler

More to explore: Do you have old T-shirts lying around? Use them to explore upcycling and sustainability in this activity.

Activity:

1. If your T-shirt has an image, decide if you want it on your bag or if you want to draw your own design. If you want to draw a design, turn the T-shirt inside out.
 2. Place the T-shirt out flat—the top will be the top of the tote, and the T-shirt bottom will be the tote's bottom.
 3. With a fabric marker, mark a U shape under the collar and around the sleeves. Then cut along the lines to create the tote straps.
 4. Decide where you want the bottom of the tote to be, add an extra few inches, and mark a line across the T-shirt. Cut along the line.
 5. Measure 1 inch and mark and continue to measure and mark 1 inch as you make your way along the bottom. Then draw a line 2 inches long from each inch mark toward the top. Following the lines, cut the front and back of the shirt at the same time to make the strips even and lined up.
 6. Turn the T-shirt inside out. Knot each front and back strip together. Tie the strips you created into sets of two to close any gaps.
 7. Turn the bag right side out and decorate it with fabric markers and any other materials.
- **For More Fun:** Think about what you need to carry. Would it be helpful to have a pocket or zipper? What features would make your tote just right for the job? Add special features to help with your tote's function.

