

RECYCLED BOTTLE FISH

Required Materials

- a clean and clear plastic water or pop bottle
- serrated knife (make sure an adult uses the knife)
- Scissors
- spray paint or acrylic paint
- plastic craft eyes
- craft glue
- permanent marker
- fishing line

Step-By-Step Procedures

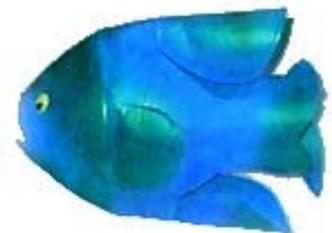
1. Remove the label from a clean and dry plastic water or pop bottle.
2. Set the bottle on its side.
3. Using the serrated knife, cut off the neck of the bottle. (Kids – have your parents complete this step.)
4. Remove the bottom of the bottle with scissors.
5. Collapse and flatten the bottom part of the bottle, below the cone-shaped top. If the bottle is ridged, this might crinkle the plastic a bit, but you don't need to worry as this only adds some interesting texture to the finished fish.
6. Draw a basic fish shape onto one side, outlining where you will cut around the gills, the top and bottom fins and the tail.
7. Hold the bottom of the bottle tightly with your fingers, so that both sides are immovable. If you find it helpful, you could staple or tape the bottom edge to temporarily secure it.



8. Cut out the curves of the top and bottom fins, going through both sides of the bottle.
9. Shape the edge of the tail, cutting through both sides, to suit your fish design. A shallow curving “V” cut, or a simple straight cut is suitable for most fish.
10. Cut a small, sharper “V” cut on either side of the mouth.
11. The gills must be cut out separately. Use your fingers to open out the fish to the original round bottle shape, and then carefully cut a “U” shaped gill on each side. Bend both gills outwards, so they stand away from the fish body a little bit.

12. Before painting the fish, suspend the fish body over the mouth of an empty glass bottle (this makes it easier to paint the fish). It is best to apply multiple thin coats, rather than one thick coat of paint, to avoid runs and streaking.

When the first color is dry, add complementary markings with a darker color of paint. This might include painting the tail, the gills, and part of the face area, or another combination of highlights.



13. Once the fish is completely dry, glue on plastic eyes.
14. If desired, add straight or wavy stripes, or scale marks, with permanent marker
15. String in fish line, hang and enjoy!