6 – 9 YEARS



Sustainable Waste 2 Art Prize

Hanging Loose

A mobile is a suspended, sculptural artwork where different elements are hung from a central frame. Mobiles are often made in a way that is flexible, using string or wire, so they can easily move in the wind. Environmentally, loose parts can be a problem. Objects such as bottle tops and used pens end up in landfill so turning them into art helps to bring awareness to this important issue.

Steps

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- Start by thinking about what kind of frame you would like to use to make your mobile. You can either find an object that can act as a frame, such as a bicycle wheel or picture frame, or find various straight sturdy items, such as broken chair legs. You can bind them together with yarn or strips of fabric.
- 2. The next step is to think about what you want to hang off your mobile. Maybe you would like to suspend lots of the same type of item from your mobile, such as dried out coloured ink markers or pens? Using the same item type can help give your artwork a consistent look. Perhaps you want a variety of items that have a theme in common, such as waste from the kitchen. This could help you share a particular environmental message. If you're feeling extra creative, you can even make small artworks to hang off your mobile sculpture!

SUGGESTED MATERIALS

To make the frame:

- Broken chair or table legs
- Reclaimed timber
- Coat hangers
- An old bicycle wheel.

To hang items from the frame:

- Old stockings
- Recycled yarn
- Strips of fabric cut from worn out clothing
- Soft plastic packaging cut into strips
- Broken toys
- Used up pens and coloured ink markers
- Hard plastic scraps
- Small artworks made from fabric or paper waste.

Once you've planned your frame and what you want to hang from it, it is time to design how you're going to hang these items. Some things to think about:

- How far down from the frame do you want things to hang?
- How much movement do you want to have? If you want lots, think about using something very flexible like old knitting wool. If you want less movement you might prefer wire or even cardboard.
- How visible do you want the hanging threads to be? Do you want the colour and texture to stand out or fade into the background?
- Once you have all of your components, it is time to get making! Remember, it's okay if your plan for your artwork changes as you make it. Take time to look at your artwork and revisit your design ideas wherever needed.
- 4. A mobile needs to hang from the ceiling so add a hook or hanging string to the top of your mobile so it can be displayed once you're finished.





