



## Re-Discovered Animals

Pre-K through Grade 5, written to Grade 2 standards

Noah's Ark at the Skirball™ is filled with hundreds of handcrafted animals made from recycled materials and everyday items. In this lesson, students will uncover the artistry behind the animals aboard Noah's Ark and construct their own found-object animal sculptures.

### Objective

This lesson prepares students to make observations and engage in the creative process.

### Materials (Worksheets available on Google Slides)

- "What's It Made Of?" worksheets
- "How to Make a Re-Discovered Animal" instruction sheet
- "Artist's Statement" worksheet
- "Self-Reflection" worksheet (optional extension)
- Items for students to find:
  - Various found objects, such as containers, paper tubes, and other recyclables
  - Scissors, tape, glue, and markers may also be helpful

### Class Activity

1. Lead a warm-up discussion about the following:

- Found objects: Items found in the space around you. They can be old or new, special or commonplace. Everyday objects like cups, silverware, and toys are often used in found-object art! What interesting objects can you find around you?
- Symbolism: The use of an object or image to represent something abstract, like an emotion or concept. In the Noah's Ark story, a rainbow stands for hope. What symbols can you think of?

2. Make observations as a class about the whimsical Noah's Ark animals featured on the "What's It Made Of?" worksheets and/or in the **Noah's Ark welcome video**. Each animal was designed by a team of artists using found objects and recycled materials.

Watch our  
welcome video  
to discover more  
Noah's Ark  
animals!

3. Ask students to choose an animal that is meaningful to them and consider the following:
  - What makes your animal special or unique?
  - Where does your animal live?
  - How does it behave?
  - What could it symbolize or stand for? For example, a dove reminds us of peace, a lion might show courage, and a monkey could symbolize curiosity.

## Student Instructions

1. Make an animal out of found objects! Refer to the “How to Make a Re-Discovered Animal” instruction sheet.
2. Prepare to discuss your creative process by completing the “Artist’s Statement” worksheet.
3. Optional: Reflect on what you’ve learned about yourself as an artist using the “Self-Reflection” worksheet.

## Share Out

- Create community guidelines for supportive art presentations. Discuss what it means to share your artistic process and support other artists’ presentations. Make sure to look closely and practice active listening!
- Have students present their sculptures and artist statements!
- Share student artwork with us! We’d love to showcase your classroom creations. Email photos to [education@skirball.org](mailto:education@skirball.org).

## Curriculum Connections

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY: SL.2.1, SL.2.2

California Arts Standards: 2.VA:Cr1.1, 2.VA:Cr2.3, 2.VA:Pr5

## Connect with Us

Our educators are here to help! If you would like to talk with us about how best to facilitate this activity with your students, please email [teacherprograms@skirball.org](mailto:teacherprograms@skirball.org).

Name:

## What's It Made Of?

In the spirit of caring for the earth, artists made the animals aboard Noah's Ark at the Skirball™ out of found objects: old and recycled stuff they found around them.

**What kinds of animals do you see?**

**What found objects might these animals be made of?**



I notice:



I notice:



I notice:



I notice:

## What's It Made Of?

See what kinds of found objects have been turned into one-of-a-kind creations!



### Rooster

Roosters are known for pecking at their food. The Skirball's rooster puppet is often found pecking at fruits, grains, and seeds. The artist who created this puppet, Chris Green, found a red cowboy boot in New York City that he thought would make a perfect rooster body.



### Ram

This ram is inspired by an art piece called *Bull's Head* created by Spanish artist Pablo Picasso. The Skirball's animal sculpture, just like Picasso's, has an old bicycle seat for the head and bicycle handlebars for the horns. The ram's fluffy body is made from cotton curtains.



### Brown Kiwi

This New Zealand kiwi bird has paintbrushes for legs and a recycled oil can for a head. Kiwis do not fly and instead live on land to sniff out underground insects. They are small but mighty! This one's body is made from old boxing gloves, which symbolize how brave kiwis can be.



### Norway Rat

This rat's yellow body is made from a used croquet ball. Croquet is a popular sport played around the world in which players knock balls through hoops in the grass. Wire forms the arms, whiskers, and tail! The rat's silly look is completed by a pair of buttons for eyes.

### How to Make a Re-Discovered Animal

1. Choose an animal you want to make. It can be a favorite animal, one you're curious about, or an animal from a story you like.
2. Think about the different shapes that make up your animal. Picture its head, body, legs, trunk, shell, and/or tail.
3. Collect found objects (materials around you that can be repurposed), such as containers, paper tubes, fabric, sticks, leaves, and bags. A recycling bin is a good place to start!
4. As you look for objects, consider what you want your animal to symbolize. Make sure to find an object that represents that idea! For example, a monkey could symbolize curiosity, so a found-object monkey sculpture might incorporate items related to learning, like a book, pencil, or magnifying glass.
5. Experiment with putting your found objects together. Try different ideas until you find something that works!

#### Idea Box

- Put one item on top of the other to see if it balances.
- Create a shape out of clothing or fabric.
- Don't have the perfect arms, legs, tail, or ears for your animal sculpture? That's okay! Draw a design on paper, cut it out, and add it to your creation.

6. Once you like the way your animal looks, glue, tape, or assemble it in a way that allows it to stand by itself.
7. Decorate your animal sculpture with details using drawing materials, markers, tape, or other found objects. Get as creative and wild as you'd like!



Artist (your name!):

## Artist's Statement

I was inspired by this animal:

My sculpture contains these found objects:

My animal symbolizes:

It symbolizes this because:

I showed this in my sculpture by using:

### Statement Example

My kiwi bird symbolizes strength. It symbolizes this because kiwi birds protect their loved ones. I showed this in my sculpture by using a boxing glove for its body.



Name:

## Self-Reflection

Wow, you brought a project to life! Reflect on what you learned about yourself.

Project title:

I am proud of:

My greatest challenge was:

I learned:

My favorite part was: