

colorful projects

15

to recycle, re-use, and grow

eco issue!

curious JANE



geode eggs

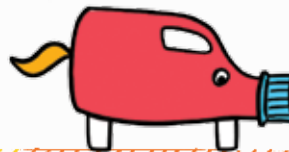
salad spinner art

black out poetry

seed bombs

trash to treasure

and more!



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BE INSPIRED



\$9.95 USD

welcome to curious jane

↪ **make fun things! make things fun!** YAY!



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Dear Curious Janes,

For this issue, we invited some of our camp counselors to share the projects. They join us each summer to work with cool, creative girls like you. Here, you'll meet Anire, Cat, Willa and Lucy *plus* a new member of the Odd Squad.

Happy Making!

I'm Samantha and I started Curious Jane in 2009.

This summer will be our 12th year of camp!

And our 6th year of making this magazine for YOU.

My favorite project in this issue?

↪ **salad spinner art! it's sooo CJ!**
the science of the forces, the engineering of the spinner, and the design of the art!

My favorite Eco-Hack? LESS!

Less packaging. Less purchasing.
Less using. Less consuming. Just LESS.

My favorite spring activity? SUN!

My birthday is in April, and I grew up in Atlanta where everything is in bloom in Spring! So my all time favorite activity is simply being outside in the sun.

My favorite member of the Odd Squad?

Sneakers Tape! And now he gets a new BFF... Very exciting!

special sections, eco hacks, fun quizzes and more!

IN THIS ISSUE

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t shirt yarn



kitchen (go go) gadgets

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make your own paper
diy beeswax food wrap

spring rainbow

geode eggs
walking rainbow
monocle spy glass

tiny garden

seed bombs
veggie regeneration
sprouting sponges



plus interviews, fun facts and a silly string story!

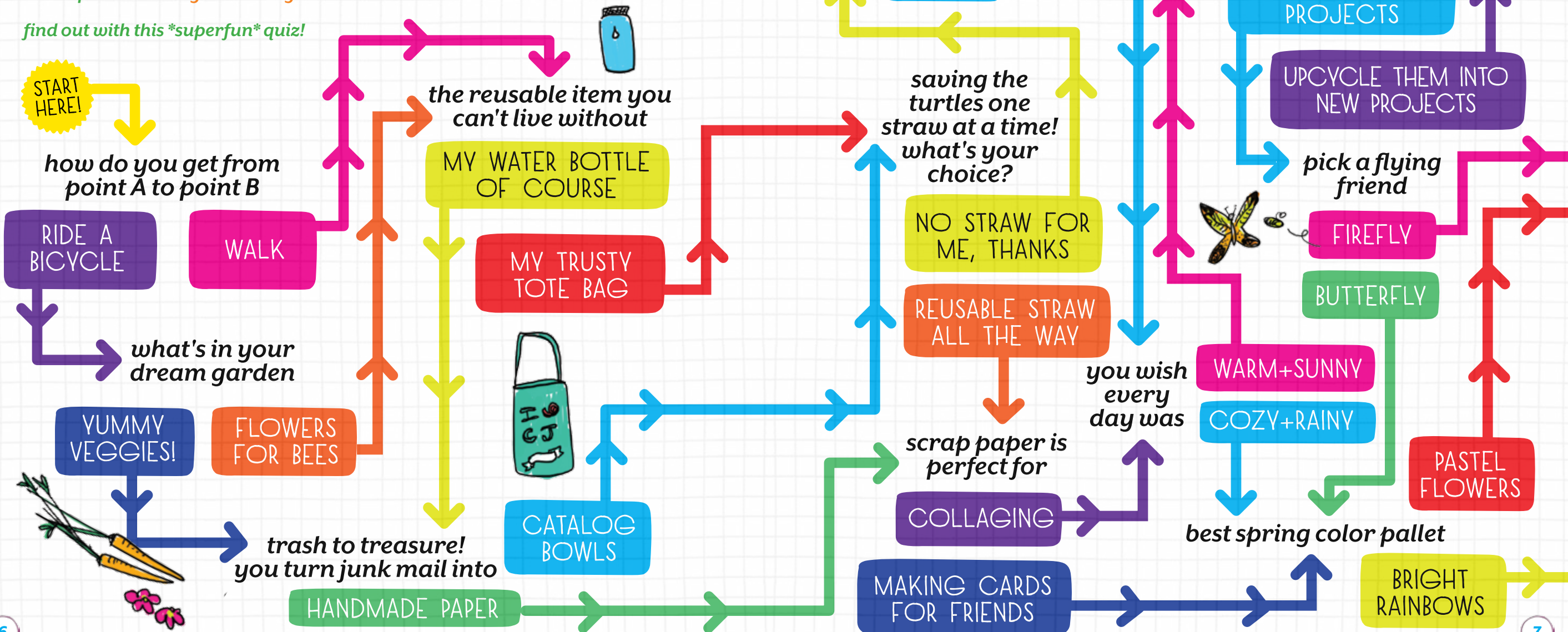


SUPERFUN POP QUIZ

yay for spring!

trees are budding, flowers are blooming, the sun is shining (when it's not raining!), the birds are chirping and we're spending more time outside! it's the perfect season to reflect on the little things we already do to make our world a better place. **what's your eco-style?**

find out with this *superfun* quiz!



reduce!

You know that a little bit goes a long way. Minimalism is your aesthetic and you are always in for a little spring cleaning! It is important to you (and the environment) that everyone reduces the amount that they are wasting on a daily basis. You have the tools, tips, and tricks to most effectively reduce your carbon footprint and help your family and friends to reduce as well. You are a true eco-superhero!

reuse!

From tote bags to swell water bottles, you are all about reusing to reduce waste in your life! You are a firm believer that one woman's trash is another woman's come up. Thrift shopping is your favorite weekend pass time and you rock some serious vintage fashion. From trash to treasure to high fashion, you know that reusable materials are great for both your eco-style and our environment!

recycle!

You are a mean, green, recycling queen! It can be super tricky to remember which recyclable goes where, but you are always there to lend a helping hand when friends and family need the help. You could sort recyclables with your eyes closed and you know how important it is to keep our environment healthy and safe!

6 quick tips for easy eco-upgrades

small changes make a big impact!

we don't need a few people to make one big change. we need lots and lots of people to make small changes every day. these are easy! what changes would you add to the list?

1 *hydrate consciously.*
get a water bottle you love and never leave home without it!

2 *take a tote!*
you never know when you'll need an extra bag and much better to have a reusable one handy.

3 *shop smart. vintage is *in*!*
in more ways than one. the style suits and the impact on the environment is tiny. shop at your favorite vintage store, or do a clothing swap with friends, instead of buying new online.

4 *clean without chemicals.*
got a case of the grimes? make your own natural cleaner with vinegar, baking soda, lemon, and essential oils rather than using store-bought chemical cleaners.

5 *unplug!*
when you unplug a device that is not actively being used you are saving energy.

6 *bring in the green.*
introduce lots of indoor plants to your home. they're good for the air quality and look great too! you'll have to experiment with the best natural light source at home. but plants do love a steam bath, so a well lit bathroom can make for a good home!





the viper is a pair of sunglasses with windshield wipers for when it rains... but who wears sunglasses in the rain? that's why we have a soft spot for the viper... is he curiously clever or just straight-up silly?!

meet **cowboy panda** – he and junior ghost are best friends, so you'll almost always see them together. most pandas definitely do not need a great big cowboy hat, that's why this one has one. go figure. it's his signature style.

because **junior ghost** is just a beginner, he hasn't yet learned that ghosts are invisible... so he's green! and he always carries a magnifying glass.

dr. brainstorm came from a camper! she took a pile of pipe cleaners and pom poms, whipped it into a mask, and announced "i'm a brainstorm!" thus, dr. brainstorm was born. she always challenges and inspires!

yep! **talking giraffe** is samantha's alter-ego. she's tall and long-limbed, and she likes to talk a lot! (if you were an animal + verb... what would you be?)

sneakers tape is our mascot! (and yes, there is always an "s" on the end of "sneakers"!) he's definitely not sneak-y, but he wears a lot of sneak-ers, and he keeps us company wherever we go.

collette is just as she appears, a rainbow ant with a fabulous mustachio! she is careful and meticulous and likes to put the fine point on all our projects.

meet the newest member of the odd squad!

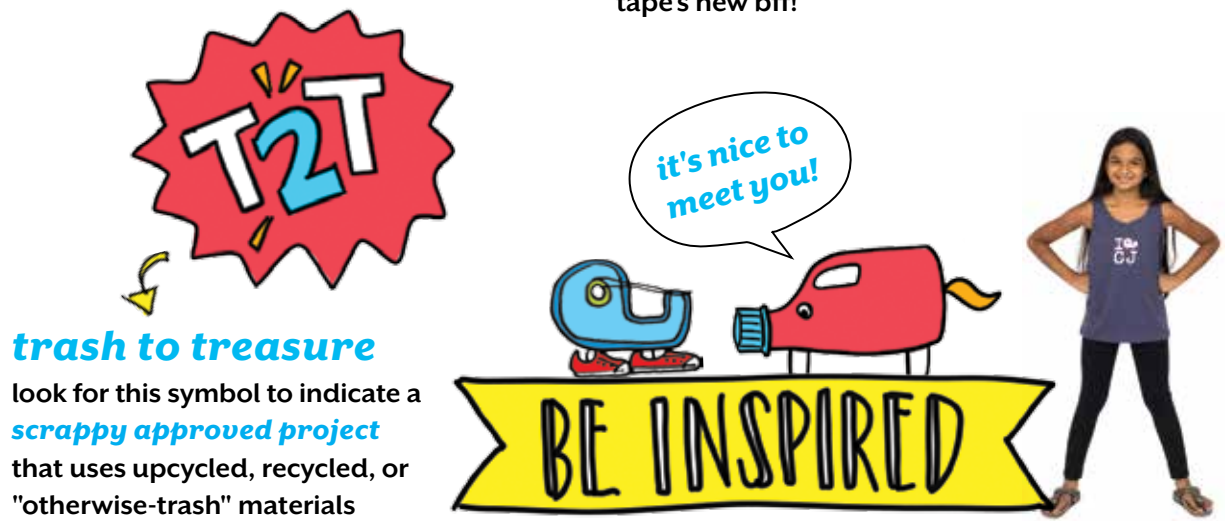


not one to give up easily, **scrappy, the eco-detective**, believes there is a solution for every problem!

scrappy comes from the recycling bin so they grew up with plenty of eco-friendly neighbors. but not too far from their home lies the trash receptacle where scrappy frequently exercises their skills as a resourceful upcyclist.

scrappy's a **laundry-detergent bottle** with a tail. they're sturdy and intrepid. they are not afraid to wade into a mess, sniff out eco-trouble, and tackle the challenge at hand.

scrappy is taking us through this issue, helping us take **trash to treasure** and encouraging our re-use and re-cycle ways. and they might just be sneakers tape's new bff!



trash to treasure
look for this symbol to indicate a **scrappy approved project** that uses upcycled, recycled, or "otherwise-trash" materials

old catalogs? new bowls!



maker checklist

catalogs or magazines
scissors or X-acto knife
double stick tape

1 carefully unstaple
your magazines or catalogs and cut
each spread in half. then cut each
page into 4 equal vertical strips.



2 fold each strip in half
(the long way) and then fold each edge into the center.



3 repeat
lots and lots of times!



4 link your first 2 strips together
by opening up one side and sliding
another folded strip inside.

we made our bowl with
catalogs otherwise destined
for the recycle bin



here at CJ we love a hard copy!
the magazine we print and bind is
an important object because it
allows you cool readers out there to
open it up anywhere and anytime
you feel like a good mental stretch.
we hope you keep it around!

what to do with the magazine
when all the projects have been
made, the experiments conducted,
the quizzes answered, the pages
properly stained with crafty
fingerprints and there are no more
corners left to dog ear?

upcycle it, of course!

5 fold the open side down over
the inserted strip, and then fold
the whole linked strip in half again.

6 starting at one end, roll the folded strip
into a tight spiral. leave a few inches unwound,
so you can insert and link the next strip.

make
some

7

continue linking and winding,
around and around and around!



8

eventually you'll have a nice round disk.
when you've used all your strips or get to the size you
want, secure the end with a piece of double stick tape.

9

once your end is secured,
gently push out the center of
your spiral and coax into a
bowl shape.



this is anire,
and this is her
black out poem!



write
your
own

extra pages?
**black out
poetry**

blackout poetry

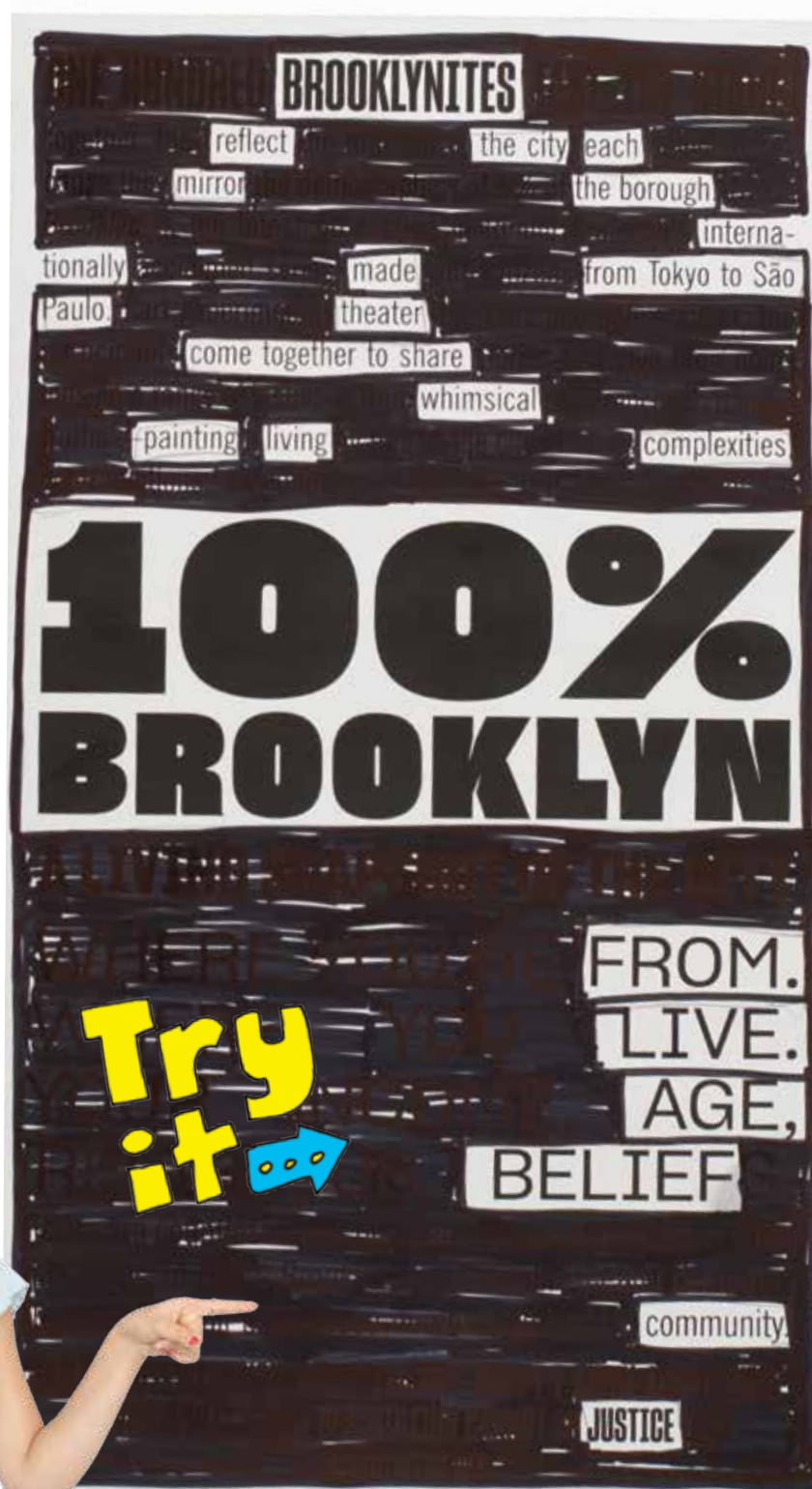
is like the negative space in an image. the negative space of an image is the space between its focal points. when you pull the background elements forward, the picture changes into something totally new!

try it: instead of looking

at a bird in the sky, you see a sky with a bird. the background and foreground switch roles!

the same idea

can be applied to blackout poetry. blackout poetry takes a piece of existing writing and extracts from it particular words, literally “blacking out” the focus as we knew it, and making something entirely new!



this is cat, and she created this black out poem!

TRAVELED & FOUND

Simplicity Two Ways

Minimalism isn't about just one look or one set of rules. Take the Japanese version—rooted in mindfulness, it embraces both clean, modern lines and ancient decorative techniques like shibori, or the creation of patterns with indigo dye. Then there's Scandinavian minimalism—a strong emphasis on pure form and function, plus an unmistakable playful streak. So what do the island off East Asia and the cluster of Northern European countries have in common, designwise? Maybe because of their heavily forested areas or long, dark winters, both evolved design sensibilities that value natural light and use natural wood as much as possible. Both like to keep things simple yet beautiful. And when elements of each come together in this new collection, they both make us feel calm, at ease and right at home.

this text came straight out of a catalog for a furniture and home decor store which was otherwise headed for the recycle bin.

use this to create your own black out poem then flip to the end of this magazine to see ours.

be creative and show your personality! we love how everyone starts with the same thing and ends up with something totally unique.

share yours! @curiousjane_fun #cjblackoutpoetry

piñata party? candy wrapper accessories

maker checklist

candy wrappers

packing tape (clear)

2 D-rings for belt

HOW TO

carefully unwrap your favorite candies
(save them in a glass jar for later!)

lay out a long strip of clear packing tape,
sticky side up. we found it helpful to secure each
end with a piece of masking tape.

arrange your wrappers on the tape,
making sure not to put wrappers all the way up to
the edge of the tape.

use another piece of packing tape
to cover your strip. the sticky edges will stick to
each other and create a sort of "lamination."

make the clasp for the belt or bracelet,
put both D rings on one end of your strip,
fold over about 1-2 inches and secure with
more packing tape.

to wear, wrap around
your waist or wrist, put the end
through both D rings, then back over
the first ring and under the second
ring. pull to tighten.

Sweet 



*just a few uses
for t-shirt yarn...*



juggle!



2 *cat's cradle and
string stories*

3 *a lovely wall
weaving*

4 *braided jewelry*

5 *t-shirt scarves
and tassels*



*faded tees?
fresh yarn!*

SUPERFUN

yes
PLEASE!

T2T

maker checklist

old t-shirts

fabric scissors

before you start

cut off the hem and
save it for cat's cradle!

and sing the silly string song!

lyrics are at the end of the magazine :)

1 cut the body in a spiral

cut around the body of the tee, going
around and around, all the way up to the
arms, so that you have a single long strand
about 1-inch wide.

2 play tug o' war!

take sections of your t-shirt strand (or
give one end to a friend) and pull! the
edges will soften and curl, and you will
have a long, even rope of fabric.

3

wind it up and wrap in a ball

take your long strands of t-shirt yarn,
tie them together and wind them up.
now you have a ball of t-shirt yarn for
when inspiration strikes!

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only
\$5!



curiousjane.fun/magazine-back-issues-pdf



all about paper

(flip ahead a few pages to see our own paper how-to)

in the US, each person uses about 663 pounds of paper products every year! what you may not realize is only about 60% of paper gets recycled while the rest ends up in landfills. so while paper bags are a better option than plastic, the “no disposable bag” option is still the best!

paper can only be recycled about half a dozen times before it loses its ability to stick together after the cleaning process. what makes paper stick together in the first place?

we suggest you keep reading!

paper is often made from wood. wood contains fibers called cellulose which are the hairy strands you can see at the edge of paper when it's torn. these small hairy strands are what give stems their ability to stand upright and strong.

cellulose is a polymer with a natural sticky quality about it which is why it is also a common ingredient in glue.

there is so much potential for creativity within the world of recycled paper.



true story: famous architect frank gehry, was one of the first to design with cardboard after manufacturers had been seeking an alternative to plastic since the 1960s.

gehry saw a pile of corrugated cardboard outside of his office one day and got inspired to start experimenting. gehry discovered that the material layered enough times in different directions built a lot of strength and durability into the pieces. the “easy edges” collection came out between 1969 and 1973 and was wildly popular! in fact, “the wobble chair” and “the little beaver chair” are still being produced today!

his designs introduced people to cardboard as a very cost-efficient and portable material in ways that other materials have failed. today cardboard can be made both waterproof and fire-safe, and with the help of computer aided design (CAD) the possibilities have truly become limitless!



kitchen go go gadget!

spin some art
blend some paper
wrap your snacks
in beeswax



the kitchen tends to be a place where things get briefly used and then discarded. this probably has a lot to do with the level of mess that can be had throughout the course of preparing any given meal. if you've been in the kitchen before, either handling, assisting or waiting for dinner, you know what we're talking about.

INSPIRATION
one thing we love at CJ?
using everyday objects
in new ways!

give a common place like the kitchen a once over and ask yourself, “how can i breathe new life into something not so new anymore?”

we thought you'd never ask!

check out these kitchen utensils turned DIY tools with scrappy as your guide, because who can take a closer look at the old than a repurposed laundry jug turned eco detective?

awesome



salad spinner art

use an old household item in a totally new way! from a scientist's-eye view, the humble salad spinner is a fun way to learn about centripetal and centrifugal force.

centripetal force is what keeps the earth from leaving its orbit around the sun and flying away into outer space. in this example, gravity is our centripetal force as it pulls the earth towards the center of its path around the sun.

if we were able to turn off gravity, another force called **centrifugal force** would take over. centrifugal force will make an object leave its circular path in a straight line until it crashes into something else, like another planet.

a salad spinner is a lot like a planet moving without gravity.

when you pump the spinner, the wet greens push outward towards the edge of the container until they run into the wall of the strainer. the water droplets that are sitting on the greens are pushed to the outside bowl, leaving the leaves dry in the same way the planet would leave the orbit without gravity.

while making salad spinner art the paint is not held to the center by any force. without any central pull, the paint acts similarly to the water droplets on the greens. when we push the button on the salad spinner, the paint splatters outward into a beautiful piece of art left in the artistic hands of centrifugal force!

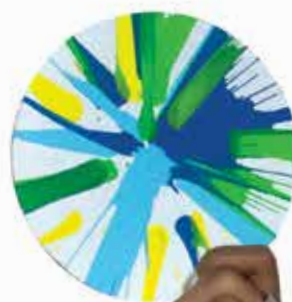


maker checklist

salad spinner

paper circles or cardboard cake disks

colorful acrylic paints



1 place your paper inside the salad spinner, and dot randomly with colorful paint.



2 spin, spin, spin away! when you take off the lid, you can see it in action.

3 let it dry... voila!



Really FUN

our pulp is a combo of junk mail
(with the plastic windows from
envelopes removed) and tissue
paper left over from gifts



1. make your paper pulp

add a large handful of shredded junk mail and a
small handful of colorful shredded tissue paper
to a jar and cover (barely) with warm water.

let soak then blend fully

you will have thick paper pulp.

HOW TO
make
★ some



our paper making kit came with

a wooden tray with velcro to hold the other parts, a rigid plastic grid, stiff but
superfine white mesh, a screen, and couch (pronounced "cooch") sheets for
absorbing the final drops of water from newly pressed paper.

immersion blender DIY handmade paper

maker checklist

old paper (junk mail is perfect)
scissors to shred
immersion blender (or cuisanart)
paper making press
tray or bucket for water



2

2. assemble your paper making kit

secure the superfine mesh screen and the rigid plastic grid to your wooden frame using the velcro straps.



3



3. immerse your frame in the water

plastic side down, letting it enter at a 45° angle.

4. once it's fully immersed in water

pour your thick paper pulp into frame and swirl it around in the water using your fingers until the pulp is evenly distributed.

5. gently lift the tray out of the water

letting as much of the water run off as possible.

6. unhook the velcro straps and release

the pulp, white mesh, and plastic grid onto a covered surface, with the pulp side facing up. (a rimmed baking sheet is a good way to easily catch the rest of the water that you will squeeze out.)

4



5



6



7

7. place the screen on top of the pulp

and press down evenly with a sponge, absorbing as much water as you can. squeeze out your sponge and keep pressing until you can't sop up any more water.



8

8. gently peel the screen away from the pulp

and lay your now-two-layered paper onto one of your couch sheets, pulp side down.

9. gently peel away the fine mesh

starting in one corner. if your paper does not want to release from the mesh, try starting in a different corner.

10. cover your pulp with the second couch sheet

and press down evenly with a solid block (we used the edge of our wooden frame) to wring out the last drops of water. then carefully peel back one couch sheet, turn the paper onto a surface to dry and gently peel back the other couch sheet

note: couch sheets are reusable! just set aside to let them dry.



9



10

your paper will lighten in color as it dries. it is also normal for your paper to wrinkle as it dries. to dry faster, and help it stay flat you can gently iron it between 2 pieces of fabric. you can also lay a heavy book on top of it, but it will take much longer to dry. we don't mind the wrinkles, they add personality!





pinking shears make zig zag edges



maker checklist

fabric scraps + pinking shears

2" paint brush

bar of beeswax with rosin

old glass jar + saucepan

parchment paper

table cover

the rosin will help your wraps "cling"

one way to avoid the trash is to cut back on disposable packaging... cue the wraps!

beeswax food wraps can be used

to cover any container for lasting protection against harsh outside elements in the fridge or pantry.

beeswax, the key ingredient,

is completely natural and made by female bees who secrete the substance through glands on their stomachs. in nature the wax is used to build the honeycomb which houses the baby bees and provides storage for honey and pollen.

fun fact: the female bees

(named worker bees) have to consume 8x more honey than the males (named drones) because of their role in producing the beeswax!

it has amazing natural properties

in addition to making the wraps malleable, reusable and food-safe. beeswax is also anti-microbial (kills bad microorganisms), anti-inflammatory (reduces swelling), and anti-allergenic (prevents allergies)! wow!

beeswax wrap





QUICK TIP

use an old jam jar to melt the beeswax bar. then if you have any leftover wax, just let it cool in the jar, and simply reheat next time!



cover your surface before you start

beeswax and rosin are super sticky and get even stickier when melted!

cut scraps of cotton fabric

using pinking shears so the edges don't fray. cut a range of sizes from a 5" square up to a 9" x 12" rectangle. think about how will you use your wraps to determine the best sizes for you. you should be able to make a few wraps with one bar.

melt your beeswax rosin bar in an old jam jar

by carefully submerging the jar (with the bar of rosin inside) in a pan of very hot water over low heat. stir frequently until the bar fully melts into liquid.

lay down a piece of parchment paper

and place your first piece of fabric on top.

dip your paintbrush into the melted wax

and brush onto your fabric in long strokes. the wax melts quickly so we found it easiest to start in the middle of the fabric and brush out to the edges.

careful! the melted wax is hot!

you only want a thin layer of wax

on the whole surface of the fabric. it's okay if there are a few bumps or blobs, though!

once cool, place another piece of parchment

paper on top of the fabric. use an iron on a low setting to carefully and quickly warm the waxy fabric, re-melting and distributing any lumps of wax.

when smooth and cool, remove from parchment

and set aside to fully dry and set. then get wrapping!

buzz buzz!

the well known company, **burt's bees** started out by selling beeswax candles made from leftover beeswax from a honey business.

the founders, Roxanne Quimby and Burt Shavitz, lived in a low impact and socially conscious way from the start.

Roxanne would say, "since we take from nature, we must respect and preserve it."

"No one can do everything, but everyone can do something."

Roxanne Quimby



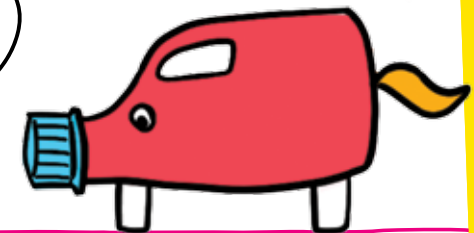
meet cat

stumped about where to get the stuff you need?

get your supplies

we've rounded up our Favorite 50 Supplies
(plus more!) and popped 'em online for you!
easy peasy, lemon squeezy!
curiousjane.fun/diy-supplies/

i like your
eco-hack



I am a drama student in college at NYU. Before that, I went to a performing arts high school in New York City. I love to sing!

I'm Cat Woods and I'm 18 years old.

My favorite spring snack?

Strawberry lemonade.
Homemade, of course!

My favorite eco-hack?

I refuse to waste plastic as much as possible. I have reusable water bottles, bags, tupperware, you name it!

I've been at Curious Jane since summer 2017.



spring rainbow

geode eggs
walking rainbow
spy glasses

rainbows show up most in the spring season,
along with the april showers that bring may flowers.

but we love rainbows year-round... and not just
the ones in the sky.

rainbows of color get us in the mood to be creative,
so we use color whenever we can.

check out these three projects inspired by color
what else do they all have in common?

some super cool science!

optical mixing with spy glass monacles
crystallization with geode eggs
capillary action with a walking rainbow

geode eggs



a little
mess is
a lot
of fun!



maker checklist

plenty of eggs

egg carton, muffin tin or
silicone mold (this is what we used)

saucepan + spoon

measuring cups + water

epsom salt (this crystallizes best)

food coloring in bright colors

toothpicks

school glue + brush (optional)

HOW TO



PREPARE YOUR SHELLS

1 crack the egg at the narrow end ...
(just a tiny crack!) and carefully open it over
a bowl. save the eggs for cooking or baking.

here, we're just working with the shell
your goal is to have a collection of egg-shell
halves that are large enough to hold liquid.

2 rinse the shells in a bowl of hot water
and turn them over on a paper towel to dry.

optional: remove the membrane
after soaking the shells in hot water, rub
your thumb gently against the inside of the
shell to loosen and peel out the membrane
(this is the thin layer that keeps the egg
completely protected in the shell).

3 prepare your geode starter crystals
by brushing the inside of your dry shells
with a thin layer of school glue; dust with
epsom salt, and let dry completely.

4 set up your eggs in a carton or mold
so that they are stable and will be able
to hold liquid. now you're ready for your
super-saturated solution.

the secret to success is the super-saturated solution!

when you dissolve the salt crystals in *hot* water, then bring
the solution back down to room temperature, you have created
a *super saturated* solution. the geodes take about a week to
crystallize. during this time, the water is evaporating, leaving the
heavy crystal structures behind.

MAKE YOUR SOLUTION

5 heat 1 cup of water to boiling point,
and carefully remove from heat.
add ½ cup epsom salt; stir to dissolve,
and continue adding small amounts of salt
(a teaspoon at a time, but no more than 1/4
cup) until it no longer dissolves, then stop!

GROW YOUR GEODES

6 fill each of the shells with the liquid
it's okay if a bit runs over! make sure the
shells are positioned so they can hold
as much of the solution as possible.

add a few drops of food coloring
to each egg; stir gently with a toothpick.

7 place your shells in a sunny spot
where they can sit (pretty) undisturbed
for at least a few days.

*crystals will form inside the eggshells
as the water evaporates*

8 TEND THE EGGS

check your geodes daily
you will find that a thin, hard
layer forms on the surface;
gently break it apart with a
toothpick. this allow the water
to keep evaporating, leaving
the crystals behind.

don't be afraid to prod!
use the toothpick to push some
of the crystals together, up
against the sides of the shell.
each day you will see crystals
coming together more and
more. tending your eggs is the
fun part!





GEODE

UNASSUMING STONE WITH A SPARKLING GEM INSIDE!

In Real Life: Geodes are formed from mineral deposits which coat the inside of a cavity and grow from the perimeter. These cavities come into existence in two ways — by either a lava or magma explosion or by a less aggressive path, such as an opening in sedimentary rock.

Sedimentary rock is formed in layers over thousands of years. As it forms, some organic materials, like wood or coral, are swept up into the mix. These organic materials are not able to hold on to the rock formation, and eventually they dissipate, leaving cavities in behind. **These nooks in the rock present an opportunity for geodes to form.**

In both creation cases (by lava explosion or by vacated nooks), the rock is microscopically porous, allowing water with minerals to enter. **The water passes through and goes on its way, while the minerals stick around.** These tiny deposits attach to the inside shell, starting the crystal growth process. The variation in the minerals causes the variation in the gemstone.

FUN FACT

SOME OF THE LARGEST GEODES EVER DISCOVERED ARE AMETHYST.



I SPY WITH MY LITTLE EYE

the way the three basic colors – **RED**, **BLUE** and **YELLOW** – can be combined to create all colors of the rainbow!

Red, blue and yellow are considered *primary* colors. They are used to create all other colors. Conversely, no other colors can be combined to create the three primary colors. Talk about an exclusivity deal!

Color is how our eyes perceive light.

Each color has a very specific wavelength and frequency. For example, purple has a high frequency and a short wavelength, while red has a low frequency and a long wavelength. When light hits an object, some wavelengths are absorbed and others are reflected back.

The color we are able to see is the light which is being reflected back.

It's a pretty fool-proof system – however, the human eye can't see every single wavelength, which is why we need machines to see X-rays and sound waves!

FUN FACT

People who are colorblind are only at a disadvantage during the day, because, come nightfall, they are actually able to see better than those with color-perceptive eyes!



monocle spy glass



maker checklist

acetate (transparency sheets)

** in red, yellow, and blue

white cardstock

regular hole punch

brass brad

2" hole punch (helpful!)

pencil + scissors

double-stick tape



HOW TO

1 create your monocle template

trace and cut 6 times out of the white cardstock. you will need 2 pieces for each lens. make sure that the widest part of the circle is about 3-in across.

2 cut a hole in the center of each monocle piece. the hole should be about 2 inches wide. for ease, use a 2-inch paper punch if you have it.

3 cut a circle from each color acetate. you will need one each of red, yellow and blue. these circles should be about 2.5 inches across, so they fit into the monocle pieces.

4 sandwich the acetate circles in the monocle pieces. set in place and secure with double stick tape.

5 stack and attach the monocles by punching a hole in the bottom of each and adding a brass brad.

6 create a color marker test sheet and experiment with which colors show, and don't, when you read it through each color of the spy glass.



walking rainbow

IT'S CAPILLARY ACTION
RIGHT THERE!

crazy
cool

maker checklist

6 glass jars or beakers

food coloring (red, yellow, blue)

6 pieces of cheesecloth, white tee
shirt scraps or paper towel

water, and a little patience

*if you use paper towels, give them
another life when you're done by
blending them in to your paper pulp
for seed bombs or handmade paper!*

1 fill 3 of the jars half-way with water,
and color these red, yellow and blue.

2 set the 6 jars in a circle, alternating
those with water and those without.

3 roll the 6 paper towels into ropes;
set each rope in the jars so that one end
is immersed in colored water and the
other hangs in the empty jar next door.
now watch the rainbow happen!



HOW IT WORKS

The seemingly magical way colors walk up and down the towel rope and combine into new colors is an effect of something called **capillary action**. Capillary action is 0% actual magic and 100% actual science!

First evidence of this was recorded by Leonardo DaVinci, but it is a pretty common occurrence. For example, when there is a spill on the table and you use a towel to mop up the mess leaving the table dry and the towel a little damp, guess what's happening? Capillary action!

The remarkable balance of color and liquid occurs because the "towel bridge" operates like a **siphon** in this experiment. A siphon is any tubelike structure that can transfer liquid from one place to another.

It works under the condition that there is an imbalance in liquid levels between the two destinations. When the liquid levels become equal, the siphon stops working and ***VOILA*** a fully formed balanced rainbow!





Anire is one of the amazing counselors who has been part of Curious Jane Camp in Brooklyn

join us for
summer camp!

brooklyn • manhattan • san francisco • denver • and growing!



Light It Up

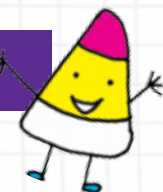
Kitchen Chemistry

Spy Science

Toy Design Studio

Build the City

and 20 other cool programs designed for you!



meet anire



I'm a drama student at Oberlin College. Before that, I went to a performing arts high school in New York City. That's how I know Cat!

I'm Anire Amoda and I'm 18 years old.

This will be my 4th summer at Curious Jane!

My favorite eco-hack?

(Safely!) poke a hole in the lid of an old mason jar and stick a reusable straw through it so that you have a DIY travel mug and eliminate the need for single use plastic when visiting a café or getting something to drink. You can also paint the exterior of the jar and the lid to make it fancy!

My favorite spring activity?

It's definitely having a picnic with friends and family outdoors. And my favorite springtime treat is mint lemonade!



SPECIAL SECTION

tiny garden

seed bombs
veggie re-growth
sprout sponges

*gardens come in all shapes and sizes
here, we've tried out a few tiny garden
projects and we hope you will too!*





maker checklist

construction paper (recycle)

tissue paper (recycle)

12" square of cheese cloth

wildflower seeds

immersion blender and jar

make
your
own

1 **cut or shred the paper into bits**
you will need a ratio of about 2:1
construction paper to tissue paper.

2 **soak in warm water and blend**
with an immersion blender (it works
best!) set the paper pieces in a jar (to
fit the immersion blender) and barely
cover with warm water. soak. blend
thoroughly.

3 **add seeds to the pulp mix, and stir**
scoop the pulp into the cheesecloth
wrap and squeeze out the excess water.

4 **mold into a ball and set to dry**
depending on the amount of water in
the seed bomb (and the humidity in the
air) it may take 2 days to dry thoroughly.

seed bombs



just toss outside
wherever you
would like some
wildflowers to
grow + bloom

the cheesecloth
scraps become
a work of art all
their own



Seed bombs bring new life into a landscape

SELECT HISTORY OF SEED BOMBS

Seed bombs have an ancient existence. In Egypt, seed bombs were used to restore soil after the Nile River's annual flooding season. The flooding season was called **akhet** and occurred between June and September due to heavy rain and melting snow off of the surrounding Ethiopian mountains. In Japan seed bombs were called, Tsuchi Dango which means "**Earth Dumpling.**"

In 1938, Masanobu Fukuoka (microbiologist, philosopher and farmer) reintroduced seed bombs to the world. He expanded seed bombing into a form of "**natural farming**" which required no machines or chemicals.

He spread these little Earth Dumplings on the sides of rivers, along roads and abandoned wastelands. He believed the wild upbringing of these seeds made for stronger vegetables since they were able to survive under more rugged conditions.

Fukuoka inspired a movement called **guerrilla gardening** in the 1970s, which was meant to rehabilitate neglected urban land.

Fukuoka's signature ingredient was clover. Clover acts as a natural mulch, to plant it is to enrich the soil. He included clover in his seed bombs to feed the soil as the soil fed him (and many others)! People all over the world learned his methods and mission and together have since healed thousands and thousands of acres of land stripped of its nutrients from excessive traditional farming.



veggie re-growth

we know that fruits and vegetables grow from seeds and need plenty of sun and water to flourish. but here is the kicker... fruits and veggies can also be grown from themselves!

Try it



PLANT YOUR VEGGIE SCRAPS AND WATCH THEM GROW. IT'S REGENERATION!



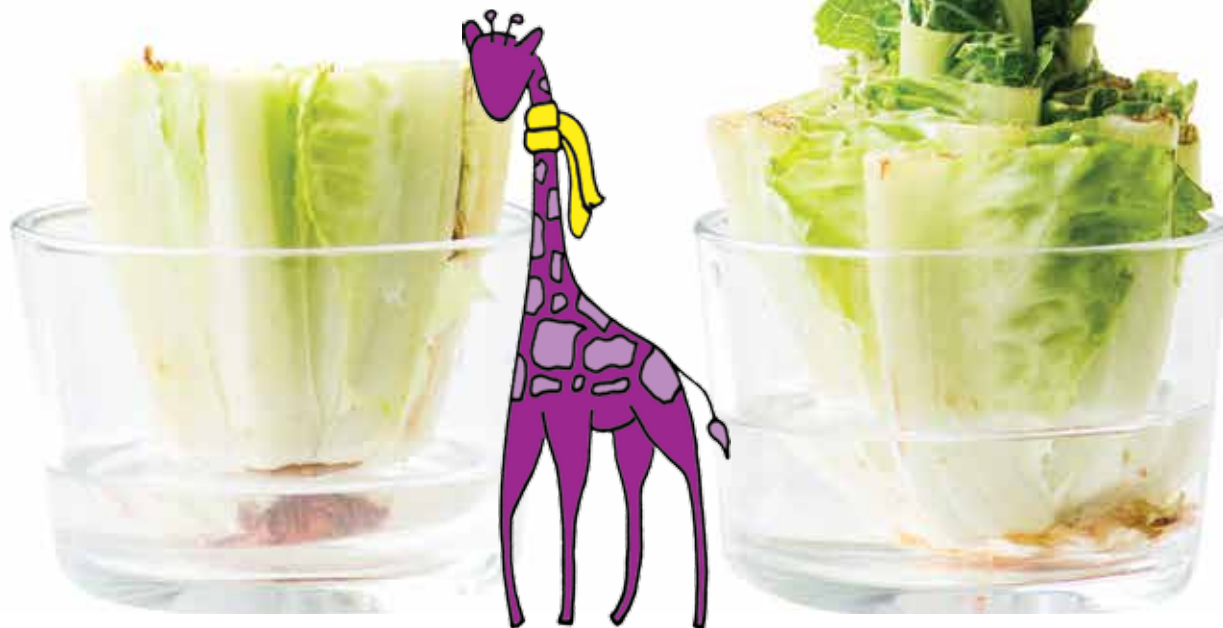
Of course the conditions have to be cozy for plant-to-be Jr., as in the scraps have to be fresh and the positioning needs to be correct. For example, some regenerative plants like scallions, onions, and celery need to be cut at the very base and replanted in water to sprout new growth. Others, like sweet potatoes and avocados need to be suspended in water which can be done with toothpicks as described in our activity.

Whether a plant regenerates from its roots, base, top, stem or seed, plants grow that particular way every time thanks to Mother Nature. So once you have your system in place, the sky is literally the limit.

1 *save your veggie scrap bottoms*
romaine lettuce, scallions, carrot (tops)
and onions are ripe for re-growth.

2 *set them in a shallow dish of water*
with the root end down and immersed.

3 *let sit in a sunny place for a while*
you see tiny new growth in a day or two.



look
OO

DID YOU SEE THE PHOTO
ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE?

THOSE TENDER GREEN
SCALLION SHOOTS
GREW THIS TALL IN
JUST A WEEK!



SPROUT YOUR SEEDS IN SPONGES!

Seed sponges form a safe protected environment where seeds can begin their growing process in a phase of seed life called germination. **Germination** describes what happens inside of the seed before it's able to sprout. The design of a sponge is ideal for housing baby seeds because it stays damp with the correct water administration, and there are plenty of built in nooks to bury the seeds within.

THE BEST SEEDS TO SPROUT

Some seed varieties have a faster germination period than others. The sponge method is best for these types of faster growing seeds this includes veggies like watercress, radishes, carrots and bok choy (sounds like the spicy salad Scrappy wants for lunch every day!)

YUM.

GERMINATION INSIDE THE SPONGE

Every seed is protected by an outer coat, some are softer and some are harder. Inside the coat is an embryo (a small baby plant). With **moisture, sunlight and warmth** the seed has what it needs to begin to grow. The seed begins to absorb water, providing needed moisture to the embryo. Next, the plant cells start to duplicate and enzymes get activated, while the embryo remains very content as it receives the nourishment it needs.

The first sign of growth appears when a tiny roots comes out of the seed! In search of sunlight, the little sprout breaks through the seed coating to start its own process of photosynthesis. In the meantime the roots have anchored further into the sponge in search of more nutrients. At this point, the plant is strong enough to be planted (still in its sponge carrier) into dirt or the ground!

1 **cut and fit a sponge to your dish**
fill with about a half-inch of water. it should be enough to wet the sponge but not so much it covers the top.

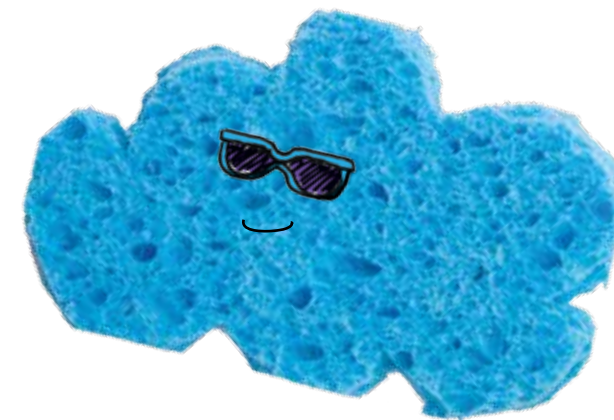
2 **add your choice of sprout seeds**
cover lightly with a damp scrap of paper towel, set in a sunny spot, and watch!

the tiniest scrap will do! you could also use cheesecloth or another small piece of fabric.



QUICK TIP

order those super-flat sponges (the kind that have been dehydrated) and cut them into fun shapes. then run them under water to pop them up!



sprouting seed sponges



maker checklist

- variety of sprout seeds
- small sponges
- glass dishes to fit sponges
- piece of paper towel
- a good amount of sunlight!



meet lucy and ...willa!

I'm Lucy Meissner and I'm 16 years old.

I've been part of CJ since I started as a camper in 2014.

My favorite eco-hack?

I always bring a metal straw around with me, instead of using plastic ones. My mom got my sister and me portable straws, so they are super easy to carry around. I keep one in my bag!

Hmm... this would be my sister's favorite snack. I'm definitely a Rice Krispie Treats fan!

My favorite spring snack?

Homemade Rice Krispie Treats! Something about their delightful fluffiness makes me think of spring... maybe because eating one is like biting into clouds! Not to mention they're super tasty. Also, making them is a fun activity all on its own, although it can get a bit messy!

(That's the fun part!)

I'm Willa Meissner and I'm 16 years old.

My favorite eco-hack?

I use a washable, reusable make-up remover towel. I don't wear much makeup, but I do wear it every day, meaning I'd be creating a lot of unnecessary trash each day by taking it off with makeup wipes. Instead, I use a towel that only requires water to remove my makeup... and I wash it and reuse it!

My favorite spring activity?

I love to bring a blanket, some fruit and a book to a grassy park and having a picnic. Reading a book with a springtime breeze blowing in my hair is my definition of ultimate serenity.

This will be my 7th summer at Curious Jane!

★ ★ ★
Lucy and Willa are high school students at Brooklyn Tech, a specialized school for math, science and technology.



START
HERE!

once upon a time

there was a cat... meow!

the cat heard a
scary noise so

she climbed up a ladder

to find a witch

who wanted to turn
her into cat stew. ew!

so the cat ran away but
the witch chased the cat

on her broom

knowing the witch was
too fast to outrun, the
cat hid until the witch
got tired and
found some
veggies for
her stew instead.

the cat was so happy
that she celebrated by

drinking a cup of tea

you can watch a video of willa
telling this silly string story on our
instagram stories! @curiousjane_fun

at the Eiffel tower!

what shade of green are you?

The choices you make and the things you think about all say something about your unique eco personality. Take our CJ Quiz to find out yours!

How do you pick an outfit for the first day of school?

Pick a color and build from there
Consider what pre and post school activities are scheduled and plan accordingly
Turn to social media for inspiration

What kind of toothbrush do you use?

Wooden toothbrush
Bamboo toothbrush
Electric toothbrush

If you could choose one incredible thing to experience, which would it be?

Sail around the world with Greta Thunberg
Visit Mars
Walk on a Rainbow

After you've organized a messy drawer what does it look like?

Half of the items in the drawer are being used to contain the rest of the mess
Marie Kondo was here
Color-coded

If you could choose any mode of transportation which would it be?

A floating scooter
Convertible shoes that have wheels, are waterproof and glow in the dark
A self-driving electric minivan

What are you most likely to give as a gift to a special friend?

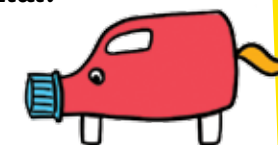
A book from a local business
A planned afternoon visiting your favorite spots
A necklace made of paper beads

How do you best learn or study?

Handwritten notes on the page
Read and repeat out loud
Notecards

What is your spirit animal?

Horse
Meerkat
Bird



if you chose mostly chartreuse, you are a...

minimalist - you have the vision.

a minimalist lives within clean uncomplicated spaces. from the start, this person collects only what is absolutely necessary which makes their world one of high quality and little waste. a minimalist makes for a great next door neighbor and a great neighbor on this planet!

if you chose mostly kelly, you are a...

conservationist - you have the voice.

a conservationist stands up for the preservation and protection of the environment. your dedication and understanding of important issues make you a great friend and a valued person to many. keep putting in the work, the earth thanks you infinitely!

if you chose mostly teal, you are a...

recyclist - you have the hand.

a recycler finds ways to reuse everything they already own. you are able to think creatively and find beauty in ways that help your own world and the greater world. you have the ability to shift the scale and redefine what real beauty can be!



**maker activities
to put the fun in
fundraiser?**

A red roller with a metal handle is shown applying a thick layer of yellow paint to a white surface with a light gray grid pattern. The paint is being rolled in a horizontal direction, creating a smooth, vibrant yellow band. To the right of the yellow band, there is a small, bright orange-red paint smudge. Above the yellow band, there are two vertical paint strokes: a green one on the left and a purple one on the right. The overall scene suggests a creative or artistic activity, possibly related to the 'Colorful' theme mentioned in the text.

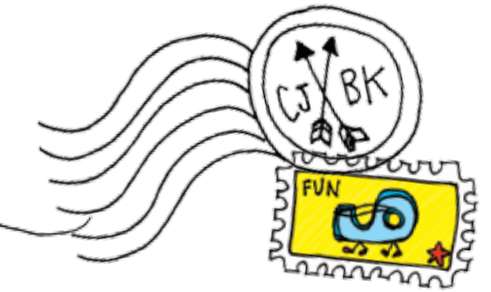


SWEET!

*visions of curious
jane in your city?*

A collage featuring two pairs of 3D glasses. The top pair is blue with red lenses, and the bottom pair is pink with red lenses. The background is a light gray grid with various colorful letters scattered across it. The letters are in different colors (red, yellow, green, blue, purple) and are arranged in a way that suggests they are floating or scattered. The glasses are positioned as if they are being worn, with the lenses covering the eyes. The overall image has a playful, creative feel.

meet the makers



we *love* making this magazine for you... get to know us!
and drop a line to say hi anytime. email: hello@curiousjane.fun

TRAVEL

Simplicity Two Ways

isn't about just one set of rules. rooted in mindfulness, a strong emphasis on the creation of patterns with a playful streak. both simple yet beautiful. come together make us feel right at home.



rainbow bright

alia used an array of tiny masking tape to turn her black out poem into a colorful work of art.



PAOLA



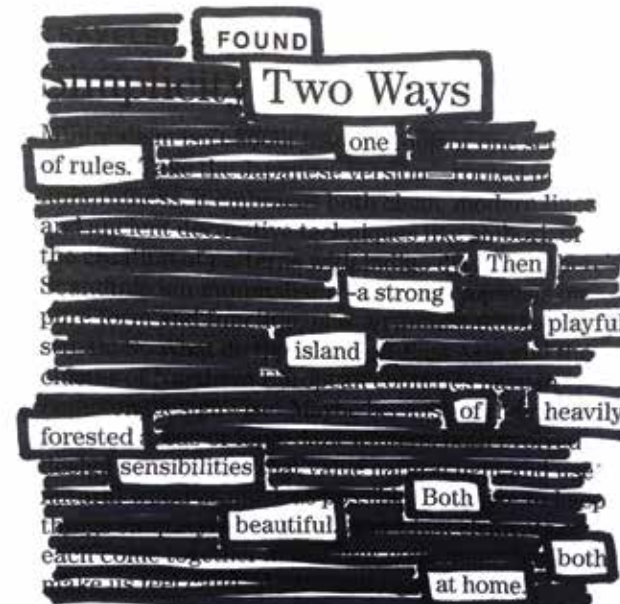
shimmery sparkle

paola let her personality shine with her favorite materials – shiny sequins, sparkly bits and bobs, and eco-friendly silvery glitter!



cut and paste

caroline cut the lines of text into strips and rearranged them into a new order to form her unique poem.



keep it simple

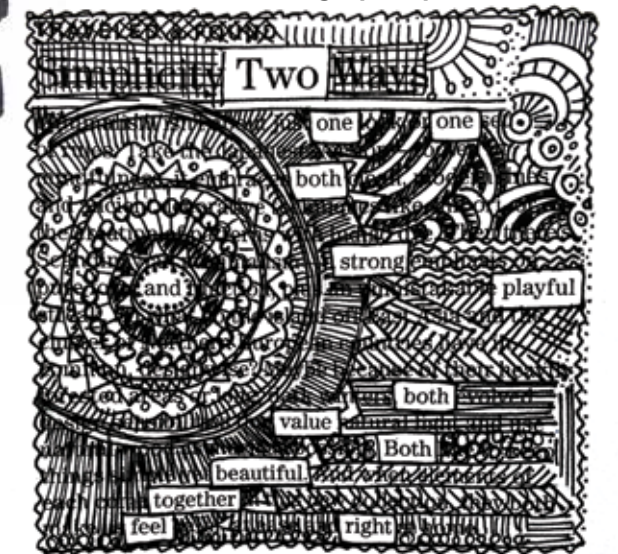
samantha's poem proves that you don't need to get fancy to have a successful outcome. sometimes simple and straightforward is best!

ELISSA



meditative doodle

elissa is a most relaxed when doodling so naturally her poem is a combo of words and graphic pen marks.



Photography by Caroline Kaye / www.carolinekayephoto.com

zero 100% carbon neutral by Hemlock Printers www.hemlock.com/zero



YAY!

