



# Turn Trash into Treasure

"Humanity must learn to make use of the earth's natural resources . . . in a manner that ensures sustainability . . ." — Bahá'í International Community\*

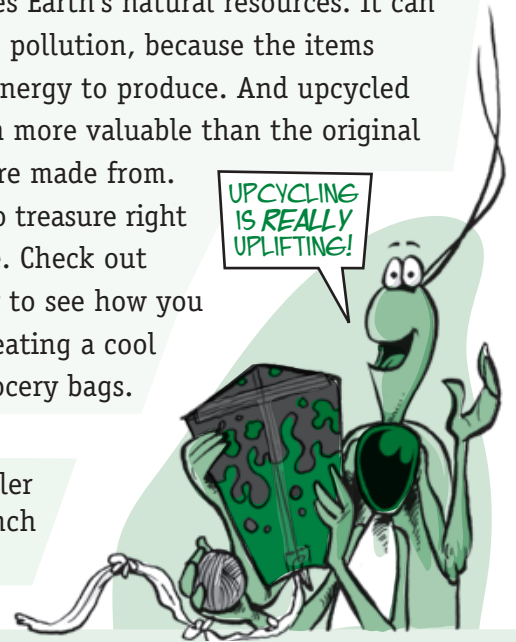
**Y**ou've heard of recycling, but how about **upcycling**? That's when items that would normally be thrown away are used to create something new and useful. Upcycling doesn't involve breaking items down before they're reused (such as when aluminum cans are melted in a recycling plant).

An example of upcycling is making tote bags or umbrellas from old drink, food, or detergent packages. These are imaginative and helpful ways to reuse trash that might otherwise end up in a landfill.

Upcycling saves Earth's natural resources. It can also help decrease pollution, because the items may require less energy to produce. And upcycled products are often more valuable than the original materials they were made from.

Turn trash into treasure right in your own home. Check out the activity below to see how you can upcycle by creating a cool kite from used grocery bags.

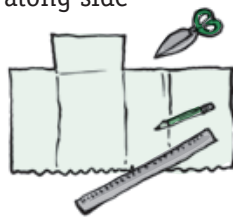
UPCYCLING IS REALLY UPLIFTING!



**You'll Need** Two grocery bags (one brown paper and one plastic) • ruler pencil • markers • ball of thin string at least 30 ft. (9 m) long • hole punch thin bamboo skewer about 10" (25 cm) long • clear tape • scissors

## Make a Grocery-bag Kite

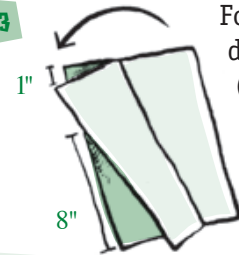
**1** Cut paper bag open along side and bottom creases. Measure a 13" x 17" (33 cm x 43 cm) rectangle and cut it out.



**2** Fold paper in half so short ends touch.



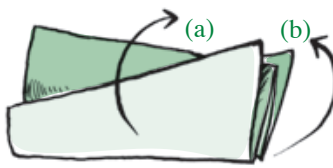
**3** Fold top wing diagonally so 1" (2.5 cm) of top edge is exposed and 8" (20 cm) of bottom edge is visible.



**4** Tape along inner seam.



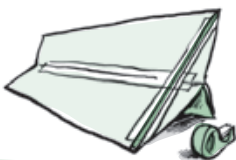
**5** Flip paper over. Fold wing (a) to meet corner of wing (b).



**6** Open wings and turn paper so taped side faces up.



**7** With an adult's help, carefully cut point off of skewer. Lay skewer across top of kite wings, touching corners. Make sure skewer isn't longer than wing tips. Secure with tape.

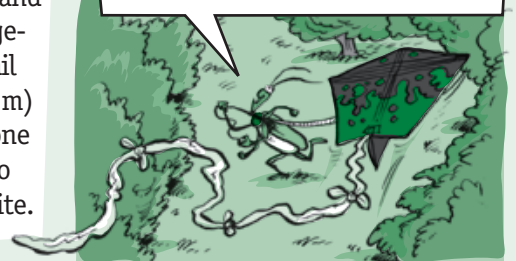


**8** Turn kite over, with flap facing up. On flap, punch a hole 4" (10 cm) from top of kite, about 1" (2.5 cm) from flap's edge. Thread string through hole and tie a knot.



**9** Decorate kite with markers. To make tail, cut plastic bag into 1½" (4 cm) wide strips and tie them together until tail is 6 feet (1.8 m) long. Tape one end of tail to bottom of kite.

ON A WINDY DAY, FIND AN OPEN AREA. HOLD THE KITE CLOSE TO YOU, WITH THE FLAP STRAIGHT UP AND DOWN. WHEN A GUST OF WIND COMES, RUN AND SET IT FREE. SLOWLY RELEASE STRING WHILE KEEPING IT TAUT, AND WATCH YOUR KITE SOAR!



\*The Bahá'í International Community is an organization that works with the United Nations and other groups.