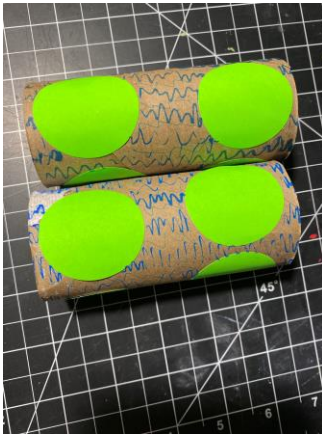


UPCYCLED BINOCULARS

Taking care of the planet is the responsibility of all those who live on it. We can help take care of our earth by being mindful of what we throw away. One way we can do that is by upcycling, but what does that mean? To **upcycle** is to use materials that would otherwise be tossed in the trash to make something new and useful. Let's brainstorm; can you think of any items destined for your recycling or trash bin that could be used for another purpose?

In this lesson, you will learn how to create a pair of **binoculars** from upcycled materials you most likely have on hand. So how exactly are binoculars used? Binoculars help our eyes to see things in a new way. Objects that are far away become close up so we can focus on their details.

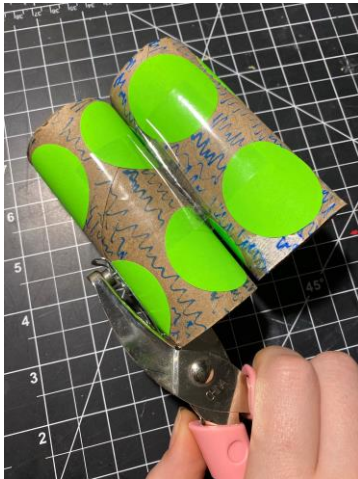


Step 1: Gather the Materials

- Toilet paper tubes (2)
- Yarn or string
- Hole Punch
- Supplies to decorate (markers, stickers, washi tape)
- Adhesive (tape or glue will work best)

Step 2: Decorate the Tubes

We recommend you decorate your tubes first, that way you can allow for time to dry before you put it all together if using glue or paint.



Step 3: Assemble

Tubes should be taped or glued together at the center so that they sit evenly, side-by-side. Hole punch the outside of each tube. Next, thread a piece of yarn through each of the holes (to resemble the strap of the binoculars). Finish it off by tying a knot at each end of the string so that they do not slide out from the holes (younger children will require assistance in tying the string).

Step 4: Take a Step Outside



If weather permits, step outside in your backyard or go on a nature walk. Use your binoculars to complete our bird-watching guide or to scope out more items that can be upcycled. Now that you have made your very own set of binoculars, you know how to be a little more mindful and look at things in a new way.

As always, be sure to show off your creation online by tagging [@BriscoeMuseum](https://www.instagram.com/BriscoeMuseum) and using the hashtags [#BeyondTheBriscoe](https://www.instagram.com/hashtag/BeyondTheBriscoe) and [#TheWestStartsHere](https://www.instagram.com/hashtag/TheWestStartsHere) so we can find your awesome work of art.