Reduce Your Footprint

Grades 3-6
Dear Educator,

Thank you for your interest in Reduce Your Footprint. Our hope is that this program, which meets state, District, and national standards of education, complements the curriculum that your students learn in class. During their visit to Tudor Place, your students will explore the concepts of reusing, repurposing, and recycling by observing the ways two centuries of Peter family members reduced waste as they managed the Tudor Place mansion and garden.

This Teacher Resource Packet is designed to help you link your classroom lessons with the field trip. The included Pre-Visit activities introduce concepts that will be expanded upon during the field trip, while the Post-Visit section contains activities that reinforce elements covered during the field trip.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at education@tudorplace.org.

We look forward to your visit!

Sincerely,

Tudor Place Education Department
202-965-0400 x108
education@tudorplace.org
What is Tudor Place?

Tudor Place is a National Historic Landmark in Georgetown, Washington, DC. The site includes a mansion, completed in 1816, and 5½ acres of gardens. Dr. William Thornton, designer of the first U.S. Capitol, designed the house, and included a full-round temple portico unique in American residential architecture.

From 1805 to 1983, the Peter family stewarded the estate, witnessing and participating in much of American history. The first owners, Thomas Peter and Martha Parke Custis Peter, came from prominent local families. Thomas was the son of one of the first mayors of Georgetown, and Martha was the granddaughter of Martha Washington. In 1814, Martha Peter watched from her bedroom window as British troops burned the U.S. Capitol. Britannia Peter Kennon, her youngest daughter and the second owner of Tudor Place, operated the mansion as a boarding house for Union officers during the Civil War. The third owner, Britannia’s grandson Armistead Peter, Jr., modernized the house in 1914. His son, Armistead Peter 3rd, and daughter-in-law Caroline created a foundation to preserve the site and educate the public about American history.

Prior to the Civil War, the Peters owned and inherited an extensive number of enslaved men, women, and children, who served the family, tended the household, farmed, and cultivated the garden. Records reveal some of their names and duties. For example, Will Johnson, an enslaved coachman, also tended the smokehouse that still stands on the property. Patty Allen, enslaved as a cook, “lived out,” or made her home offsite, in Georgetown with her free husband and their children. During the Civil War, John Luckett escaped slavery in Virginia and gained paid employment at Tudor Place as gardener. Free African Americans and European immigrants operated the estate in the late 19th and 20th centuries.

During 178 years of ownership, the Peters amassed a collection of American, European, and Asian objects dating from the 18th to 20th centuries. Today, the museum holds more than 15,000 objects, from fine decorative arts to everyday household items, as well as an architectural and archaeological collection. The museum has over 200 objects that belonged to Martha and George Washington. An extensive archive holds one of three surviving letters from George to Martha, written in June 1775.

Over the last 200 years, and six generations in one family, Tudor Place has stood witness to the American story. We look forward to welcoming you and your students to this historic home.
Preparing for Your Visit

Museum Manners

- Please review museum manners with your students ahead of time and explain that there is a “no-touch” policy in the museum’s historic rooms and gardens.
- Please have your students wear a nametag to help our museum teachers actively engage everyone.

Logistics

- We require at least 1 adult chaperone for every 10 students, preferably teachers or classroom aides. Chaperones must remain with the students at all times and should assist with class management.
- Please let us know in advance if any students have special needs. The Tudor Place mansion can be made wheelchair accessible with advance notice, and we are happy to work with you to accommodate other special needs, including ASL interpretation, adaptive classroom materials, and technology.
- Please be prepared to divide the class(es) into even, co-ed groups for the tour. In our small historic spaces, programs provide the best experience when groups have no more than 15 students each.
- Please have students use the restroom prior to leaving school. There is a very limited number of restrooms at Tudor Place.
- Outdoor programs take place rain or shine. Students should come prepared for the weather with coats, umbrellas, water bottles, sunscreen, bug spray, etc. as needed.
- With prior approval, school groups may picnic in the Tudor Place garden. Picnics must be scheduled at the time of field trip booking in order to provide for bus scheduling and to reserve space in the gardens. Picnics may not be scheduled after busing is finalized.

Transportation

- Directions to Tudor Place are available on our website at tudorplace.org.
- Due to regulations established by the District of Columbia government:
  - All visitors must be dropped off and picked up at the Tudor Place entrance, 1644 31st St, NW. For student safety, please ask your bus to approach the house from the north, via R Street, NW.
  - Buses may not park or idle on 31st Street. Legal bus parking is located at: 2500 - 2600 block of Virginia Avenue, NW - north side; 2000 block of Pennsylvania Avenue, NW - north side; 900 block of 20th Street, NW - east side.
- Free busing for Title I schools is available with prior approval, while grant funding lasts.

Fees and Cancellations

- We request a non-refundable $25 deposit, which counts toward the total cost for the program. If the deposit presents a challenge, please let us know.
- The admission fee is $3 per student, with 2 free chaperones and $2 per additional chaperone. The balance will be due on the day of the program.
- If you need to cancel or reschedule, please contact the Education Department immediately at education@tudorplace.org.
- The museum has the right to shorten or cancel programs that are more than 45 minutes late.
Pre-Visit Activities
Listed below are activities that you can use with your class before visiting Tudor Place. All activities meet local and national curriculum standards.

Activity 1: The Life of a Water Bottle
In this activity, students consider the benefits and/or consequences to throwing away, reusing, repurposing, or recycling materials. After completing this activity, students will be better able to:

- Examine cause and effect in human interaction with the environment
- Make informed decisions about what to do with waste materials

The teacher can show the 4-minute TedEd video, “What Really Happens to the Plastic You Throw Away.” The video looks at the consequences of throwing away rather than recycling plastics. Then, the class can look at other options: reusing and repurposing. Reusing a water bottle means that the bottle continues to be used to carry water. Repurposing means that the bottle is reused in a different, creative way. A number of photo examples of repurposed water bottles are available in this Lifehack article. For example:

The teacher then splits the class into four groups. Each group will create a play illustrating the “life” of a water bottle in one of the following scenarios:

- A water bottle that has been thrown away
- A water bottle that has been reused
- A water bottle that has been repurposed
- A water bottle that has been recycled
Students should consider the “experiences” their water bottle might have, and the impact that their scenario has on the surrounding animal, plant, soil, and human life. Students then present their skits to the class and discuss.

Suggested discussion questions:

- Which scenario was most harmful to the environment?
- Which was least harmful?
- Can you think of any other “trash” that can be repurposed?
- What are some ways that people can lessen their impact on the environment in their daily lives?

When they visit Tudor Place, students will encounter the myriad ways that the Peter family reused, repurposed, and recycled objects over 178 years of history.
Preparing for Your Visit: What to Expect

Thank you for joining us for Reduce Your Footprint. Over 2 hours, your students will experience the gardens of Tudor Place with hands-on activities:

Garden Tour:
Students tour the garden with their Museum Teacher and explore the creative ways in which waste has been reused, repurposed, and recycled in the Tudor Place garden, some of which may include:

- A pair of planters made out of old hat racks
- A late-18th-century smokehouse that became a pigeon coop and then a doghouse
- A fountain built of bricks from a demolished Georgetown home
- Boxwood shrubs grown from the cuttings of older garden plants
- A system for reusing rainwater to irrigate the garden

*Please note that students may not visit all of these, due to limitations in time, weather, construction, etc.*

House Tour:
Students tour the house with their Museum Teacher and investigate the ways in which the Peter family practiced reuse, repurposing, and recycling in the historic mansion, including:

- A gas-powered light fixture called a gasolier, wired for electricity in 1914
- Items from George and Martha Washington that the family repaired in order to keep using
- Items that had fallen out of fashion, handed down to servants
- A “soap saver” that made leftover pieces of soap into new bars of soap

Workshop:
Students will return to our classroom, housed in a repurposed 1914 garage, and review the examples of reusing, repurposing, and recycling that they encountered in the house and garden. Then, they will use cereal boxes to create pencil boxes to take home.
Post-Visit Activity
Listed below are activities that you can use with your class after visiting Tudor Place. All activities meet local and national curriculum standards.

Activity 1: Design a Recycled Fountain
Armistead Peter 3rd created a fountain by repurposing bricks and sculpture from buildings. What materials could be reused, repurposed, or recycled? In this activity, students brainstorm materials that could be repurposed, and design a garden fountain using those materials.

After completing this activity, students will be better able to:
- Think creatively about ways to reuse, repurpose, and recycle materials
- Reduce material waste in their own lives

Students complete the attached worksheet, or complete the activity together as a class. In addition, students can create artworks using found objects, glue, etc. Teachers can help students brainstorm ways to repurpose materials. Examples include:

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Take it further!
Older students can build their designs.
Design a Recycled Fountain

Imagine a garden of your own. You are planning to add a fountain, and you want to use no new materials. What are some objects that people might throw away?

1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 
5. 

Using the objects you listed above, design a fountain for your garden. Be sure to label the materials you used.
Activity 2: Trashion Show

Trashion, a portmanteau of “trash” and “fashion,” is a subgenre of found object art in which artists repurpose items to make wearable art.

Divide the class into groups and give each group a basket of cast off materials, like newspapers, cardboard tubes, snack bags, old t-shirts, plastic grocery bags etc. Each group should design at least one wearable art piece repurposed from the materials. Then, students can present their designs in a “trashion show.”

Examples include:

- Jacket embellished with computer keys, artist unknown
- Red Circuit Bow Tie, repurposed from circuit boards, Techwears Ltd.
- Newspaper dress by Nicole Morgan Pina, an eighth grader at Wood Middle School, OR, in 2010. *The Oregonian.*
- Viking costume at the annual Trashion Show at Sunol Glen School, CA. *The Independent.*
- Dress made of toilet paper rolls and cardboard, by Shreyaa Venkat, a student at Farmwell Station Middle School. *Loudoun Times-Mirror.*

**Tips for Collecting Recyclables:**
1. Send a note to parents
2. Get other classes involved
3. Ask colleagues
4. Have students collect recyclables from the cafeteria
Glossary

Reuse – To use an object again for the same or a similar purpose to the one it was made for.

Repurpose – To use an object for a different purpose than the one it was made for.

Recycle – To break an object into parts and make something new out of those parts.

Upcycle – To creatively repurpose an object into something else with greater value.

Trashion – A portmanteau, or combination, of the words “trash” and “fashion.” Trashion is the repurposing of items that would be considered trash to create fashionable clothing, accessories, or ensembles.
Additional Resources

History of the Tudor Place garden
http://www.tudorplace.org/who-we-are/garden/history-of-the-garden/

“What Really Happens to the Plastic You Throw Away” (TedEd, 4 minutes)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_6xINyWPpB8

“What Happens to Recycling After It’s Collected?” (5.75 minutes)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s4LZwCDaoQM

From Trash to Toys: Upcycling Projects and DIY Craft Ideas (2.25 minutes)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NgLpaJ6L6Sg

“Tuba Fountain” made from repurposed musical instruments (1.75 minutes)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l8klcoa7OmE

30 Mind-Blowing Ways To Upcycle Plastic Bottles At Home And The Office

Found Object Art: The Tate Museum

“Student ‘Trashion’ show recycles coffee filters, newspapers and more into high fashion”
http://www.oregonlive.com/west-linn/index.ssf/2010/05/trashion_show_recycles_coffee_filters_newspapers_and_more_into_high_fashion.html

Upcycle That, a website with ideas for projects sorted by material or project type
https://www.upcyclethat.com/

Zero Waste DC
https://zerowaste.dc.gov/