



# Seeing the bigger picture

Show the importance of recycling by making a picture out of clothes

Suitable for Beavers and Cubs

## You will need

- old clothes

## Instructions

**1** Explain to your group that they will be demonstrating how important it is to recycle clothes and not waste them. They will be re-using old clothes to create a picture of something connected to the natural world.

**2** Ask the young people to bring in any old clothes that they no longer need that can be recycled.

**3** Have a discussion about the amount of clothes you need and the affect that clothes might have on the environment if they are thrown away and not recycled. For example, microplastics and larger plastic items ending up in animal environments.

**4** Help the young people to use the clothes to create a huge picture of something that makes them think about the environmental impact that clothes might have, such as a tree, the Earth or a fish.

**5** Afterwards, take a photo of your creation and share it on social media to let other groups know what you have done and why.

**6** Everyone can help to gather up the clothes and put them in bags ready for Recycle with Michael to come and collect them.



## Before you start...

Go to [recyclewithmichael.co.uk/scouts-recycling](https://recyclewithmichael.co.uk/scouts-recycling) to order your free donation bags and organise a collection date.



**Time needed**  
30 minutes

**Badge**



The Salvation Army partners the Cub Environmental Activity Badge

**Partner**



**Outcomes**

This activity encourages young people to think about the amount of clothes they need and their impact on the environment, and encourages them to consider what happens to their clothes once they're no longer needed.

**More information**

The Salvation Army is a charity that provides practical and emotional support for vulnerable and disadvantaged people. Recycle with Michael teaches the importance of recycling textiles, extending the life of clothing and shoes that children grow out of so quickly! The scheme is already active in over 500 schools across the UK. The partnership with the Scouts means that Beavers, Cubs and Scouts can now donate, too. For more info go to: [scouts.org.uk/supporters/recyclewithmichael](https://scouts.org.uk/supporters/recyclewithmichael).