

## Design the playground of your dreams

What if we could create using materials we already have? Break out your imagination and create the playground of your dreams with the material you have on hand! The weather might be getting nicer or we have to stay at home? How do you like to play? What outdoor space will you use? How can you make your outdoor space more welcoming?

### Setup

Find the perfect space for your play area. It can be directly in the schoolyard or in a natural area nearby. Make sure it's okay with your grown up (parents, guardians, teachers) and that the space is safe and suitable for you to bring your ideas to life.

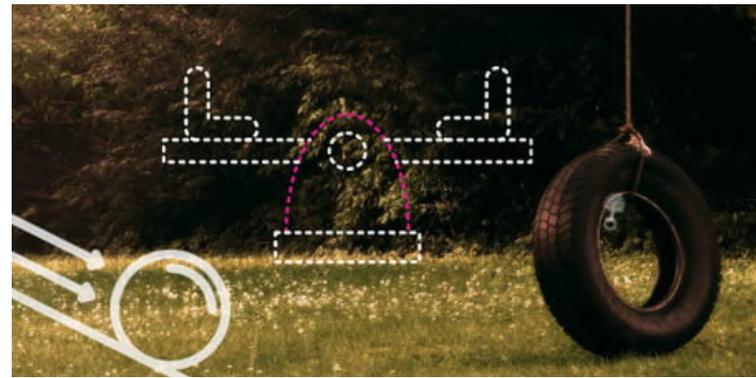
### Content

#### Call to make

Do you love to climb, love to slide, love to roll around... Design a playground in your background or school ground using materials that you can find in your yard.

#### Empathize

How could re-purposing materials affect the environment? How does your design respect other people needs and wants in a playground? How could you make the most of what you already have? What effects would it make on the environment if more people would create their own games? In a long term vision, what could you plant or develop?

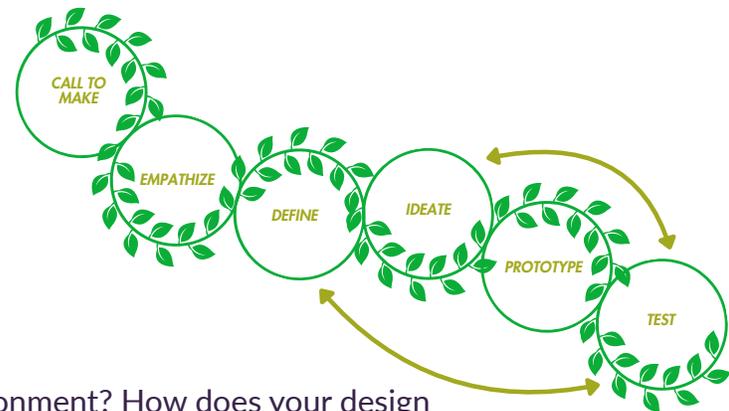


### Skills

- Sustainable community

### Materials

- Tires
- Rope
- Garden hoses or tools
- Wood
- Paint
- Utensils





**Define**

What are the design needs of the users of the play space? How is your play area going to be suitable for different age groups or needs? What skills or help will you need to get through your project? How could you make sure you don't hurt nature or natural wildlife while building your playground? How could you make the most of the space you have?



**Ideate**

How could your play space be designed so that it can be changed depending on the season? How can the play space be weather resistant? How can you use existing features of your outdoor space in your design? Where can you find ideas and inspiration for your design?



**Prototype**

Playgrounds and play spaces require a lot of planning and design prototypes to ensure safety and fun! Search for possible materials, your outdoor space and sketch your designs before setting up your materials.



**Test**

Have fun with your new outdoor play space. If something isn't working like you had planned, change your design and test it out again! That's part of the game... Ask other people to try out your new playground. How could you add new features to your design to keep it exciting and fun?



## Teachable Moments

### Math

What are the dimensions of the play space you have? Draw your plan to scale (for example, one meter of space corresponds to 1 cm on the plan)? When you are working with different materials, place them according to their volume, density or weight. Create a balance in your play space to compare the weight of things you find in nature. Create a chalk game using number patterns. Use a piece of string and a ruler or measuring tape to find the perimeter and the area of shapes in your playground.



### Science

Create an observation journal to document all of the physical forces in play in your play area. Where do you see gravity, momentum or friction in your play space? Create a comic strip illustrating what would happen in your play space if there was no friction. What types of movement do you see? Research simple machines, use pictures to explain your use of them in your playground. Don't have any, add some. See how much fun simple machines can be. How has using simple machines improved your design?



### Language Arts

Advertise your environmentally friendly and fun playground. Produce a video of your making process and share it on Flipgrid. Share it to influence others. Write a letter to convince your school principal to use what you have at school to improve the school ground. Read books and web pages that explain easy construction skills and technique.

### Music

Add a musical creation or creative space to your play area. How could you play music or make art with natural loose parts?



### Physical Education

How many steps are you making in an hour of play? What part or your outdoor space could give you opportunities to develop balance skills? What other skills are you developing while you play?



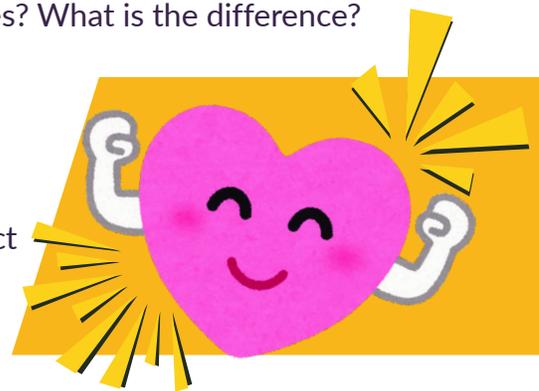


### **Social Studies**

Did you collaborate on this design, if so, how did you solve problems? What do kids in other countries use to play? Make a research to compare the playgrounds of different schools in different parts of the world. What are the similarities and differences? What if making with what we have would be the norm? What are your needs and wishes? What is the difference?

### **Health**

What are the benefits of unstructured outdoors play on a regular basis? What parts of your body are engaged when you use your playground? Which muscles are you developing? What is the effect of making games instead of buying new for the planet?



### **Take it Further**

Did you know that each year, Canadians use and discard more than 28 million tires? How could we re-purpose these tires and give them a new life? Create a plan for your own community and determine how many tires you could keep out of the landfill through re-purposing and innovation?

## **Glossary**

### **Circular economy**

A model of production and consumption, which involves sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing and recycling existing materials and products as long as possible. In this way, the life cycle of products is extended. In practice, it implies reducing waste to a minimum

## **Resources**

### **Emilie and Charlotte, Obstacle Course**

Watch Émilie and Charlotte go through the obstacle course they made in their front yard.



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y7O\\_vjsyeIE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y7O_vjsyeIE)

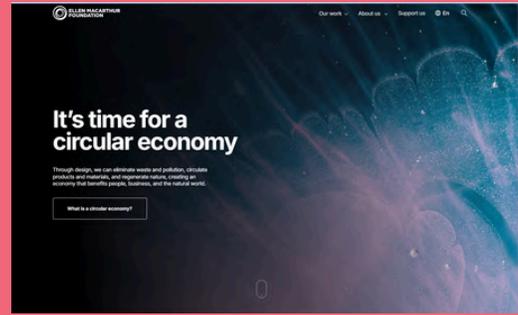
**Nature games tutorial**

Follow Kate with her creations of games made with recycled material.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OclBD-A2ttc&feature=youtu.be>

**Waste & Recycling**  
Circular economy



<https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/>



**Learning continuum:  
Sustainable Innovation Through Holistic Connection**

Based on three emerging pedagogies\* and in recognition of indigenous knowledge, the natural maker educational continuum aims to support the learner through a holistic journey of connection to the earth, the community, oneself and others, in order to evolve globally towards a more open, humble, democratic and decolonized way of thinking, learning and living.

\* wild pedagogies, conscious pedagogies and decolonization of education



**#EarthDayInNature**  
**#ActForEarth #ClimateAction**

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