INTRODUCTION

Americans use about 50 billion plastic water bottles each year! Only 23 percent are recycled. That means Americans waste 38 billion water bottles each year (or 15 million barrels of oil). Let’s figure out different ways to reuse some of those bottles so they don’t end up in a landfill.

OBJECTIVES

Through this lesson, students will see the environmental impacts of a familiar, frequently-used item that they encounter on a daily basis. Using a concrete example, students can direct their actions in a way that is both immediate and environmentally beneficial.

MATERIALS

Provided by Museum:
+ Water bottle 100 worksheet

Provided by you and/or student:
+ 10 water bottles for creative reuse
+ Phone or camera to photograph ideas

TIME REQUIREMENT

1-2 class periods

KEY THEMES

SCRAPPING

TEAMWORK
**COMMON CORE STANDARDS**

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RST.6-8.9
Compare and contrast the information gained from experiments, simulations, video, or multimedia sources with that gained from reading a text on the same topic.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.6.4
Present claims and findings, sequencing ideas logically and using pertinent descriptions, facts, and details to accentuate main ideas or themes; use appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation.

**PROCEDURES**

1. Explain to your students the fact about recycled bottles that was listed above. Have them brainstorm the different solutions to this problem, solutions like the following: don’t buy and drink bottled water—use a reusable water bottle instead; recycle 100 percent of the plastic water bottle you use; find creative ways to reuse your plastic water bottles. Write these solutions on the board.

2. When they arrive at the answer about creatively reusing, explain to students that their task will be to think up 100 ways to reuse a plastic water bottle. Reinforce that they should be creative and try not to repeat any ideas—like fill it with apple juice, fill it with orange juice, etc.

3. Fill out the Water Bottle 100 form.

4. To complete the challenge, you and your students have to physically create 10 of your ideas and take a photograph of them. Email the photographs of your solutions to the Museum!

**ASSESSMENT**

Students should apply the material presented in the lesson to their daily actions, drawing connections between the information learned in class with their own lives and behaviors. Through the class discussion and completion of the Water Bottle 100 form, students should display a critical understanding of how their actions can have a direct impact on recycling and conservation efforts.
WATER BOTTLE 100 CHALLENGE

Directions: Think up 100 ways to reuse a plastic water bottle. Be creative and try not to repeat any ideas—like fill it with apple juice, fill it with orange juice, etc. Place a star next to the 10 ideas that you actually create for this challenge.

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NAME:  

DATE:  

WATER BOTTLE 100 CHALLENGE
DID YOU KNOW

50 BILLION
plastic water bottles are used by Americans each year

23%
of plastic water bottles are recycled

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