

# Aluminum Can Art 6-8

By: Connie Riblet-Hill

## Lesson

Do you know where we get metal from? It is sourced from the ground, kind of like diamonds, its found in rocks. Aluminum is the most common metal found within the earth's crust (8%) but does not occur as a metal in its natural state. Aluminum is one of the most recycled, as well as one of the most recyclable, materials on the market. Nearly 75% of all aluminum ever produced in the U.S. is still in use today. Aluminum is 100% recyclable & retains its properties indefinitely, it can be recycled directly back into itself over & over again. If an aluminum can goes to a landfill instead, it can take up to a couple hundred years to decompose. The drink can you recycle today could be made into a new can, filled, & put back on the shelf in just 60 days. In a whole year, that one can could be recycled six times, saving enough energy to make 160 new cans.



## Questions for students

What is aluminum?

Where can we find aluminum?

Can you name some products that have aluminum in them?

How many times can one aluminum can be recycled?

Why is it important that we recycle our aluminum cans?

Please use the [Other Resources Page](#) before you start the art project

## Materials



- \* Clean Aluminum Can
- \* Heavy Glue such as E6000 or Hot Glue
- Normal Glue
- Cardboard or thicker paper, like a file folder
- Crayons/Makers/Paint Pens/Putty Paint
- Junk: Scrapes of paper, pipe cleaner, plastic caps, broken toys, ribbon (Adults help gather stuff)



**RESOURCE  
DEPOT**

*turning waste into wonder*

# Other Learning Resources

## Learn More About Aluminum & Recycling

[https://www.redbull.com/int-en/energydrink/red-bull-can-lifecycle?gclid=EAlaIQobChMI5NGtmf7j6AIVBFYMCh1-cwsYEAMYASAAEgJCPPD\\_BwE](https://www.redbull.com/int-en/energydrink/red-bull-can-lifecycle?gclid=EAlaIQobChMI5NGtmf7j6AIVBFYMCh1-cwsYEAMYASAAEgJCPPD_BwE)

<https://www.conserve-energy-future.com/interesting-facts-aluminum-recycling.php>

<https://www.theworldcounts.com/challenges/consumption/foods-and-beverages/advantages-of-recycling-aluminium>

## Videos about Aluminum & Recycling

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zmjZC1cFOkK>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r4VEGCsbEPO>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=629cIJ5VZFc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V4TVDSWuR5E>



# Instructions

Parents should help with the steps in Green



1. Gather all your materials
2. **With adult supervision, smash your aluminum can flat with your foot (shoes on!)** The best way is to stomp on it in the middle of the can when it's on its side. Do this a few times until the back is flat enough to be able to glue to the cardboard in a few steps.
3. Take your cardboard & decorate what will become the body. You can use paper, glue, puffy paint, markers, crayons, or even colored chalk.
4. **Have an adult help you glue your can down where you want it on the cardboard.** E6000 or hot glue works best but you could use masking tape to keep it down too while it dries.
5. Using regular glue, finish decorating with all the fun stuff you have collected! **An adult can help you if you need stronger glue for metal or heavy pieces.**
6. Turn your cans into creatures, buildings, spacecraft, anything your heart desires!



RESOURCE  
DEPOT

*turning waste into wonder*