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HOME ENVIRONMENT  
UNIT

# Where I Live

Linda Reece, extension specialist, interior design-furnishings  
Marian Larson, extension specialist, 4-H youth development



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Dear 4-H member:

"Where I Live" is a home environment unit that helps you find out about yourself, your home, and your community. You will learn what you like about your home, and why it's a special place to be. You will find out how to make things for your home. You will learn how to take care of the things in your home—how to store them properly and keep them looking nice. You will learn more about your family—where your ancestors lived, how they lived, and what that means to you. You will also do things with 4-H members and other friends.

There are many suggested activities in this 4-H project—more than you will want to complete in 1 year. You may also decide to do some things that are not included in this booklet. You will need to choose what YOU want to learn this year and which ones you will do next year. Talk over your feelings about the suggested activities with your 4-H leader and your parents. A junior leader may be able to help you, too. Ask them how difficult the things are that you would like to learn and do in the project. They will answer your questions and help you choose things that will be challenging to you, but not so difficult that you will become discouraged. They will help you plan your time and "stretch" your thinking. They want to help you grow as a person while you are having fun.

You won't need to plan your entire year's project at one time. After you have completed your first activity, talk with your parents or project leader. Are you satisfied with the work you have done and the things you have made? They may ask you questions about where you think you could have done better. This step is called evaluating. This is the way you can tell how you are growing in the things you are able to do. It gives you clues to what you think you want to learn and do next. Repeat this process of choosing things to do, doing them, and evaluating them throughout the year. Share what you have learned and done with your family and your friends.

Have fun learning more about where you live!

# Living with Others

You're growing up! Your interests, your responsibilities, and your activities are growing, too. You're accepting more and more responsibilities at home; you're meeting new friends through school, 4-H, church, and other groups; and you're becoming more aware of what's going on in your community. Grownup activities with your friends and your family mean learning some grownup social responsibilities.

Learning how to live with others is important—especially those people you live with every day. How you are treated by other family members and friends, and how you treat them, can make days seem “good” or “bad.” When you are thoughtful of others, it helps them feel good. When others do nice things for you, it gives you a good feeling about your home, your family, and yourself. Thinking of others is important. It shows them that you care.

What are some ways you can show others you care? Here are some ideas to help you get started.

- Do you do some things in your home without being asked . . . or reminded?
- How often do you say “thank you” to the person who has prepared your meals?
- Do you wait until everyone is seated for a meal before starting to eat?
- Do you listen when others are talking . . . without interrupting?
- Do you let others in your family know some of the exciting things that happen to you?
- Do you say thank you when:
  - Mom irons a shirt for you?
  - Mom or Dad gives you an allowance?
  - little sister helps you clean your room?
  - someone finds your school books for you when you're in a hurry?

Write down some other ways you can let people know you care about them:

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## Introductions

Have you ever wished you could make introductions easily? The rules are easy to follow.

1. When introducing a girl (woman) to a boy (man), mention the girl's name first. For example, “Karen, this is John.”
2. Say something about the people you are introducing. For example, “Karen, this is my classmate John Smith.”
3. When introducing your mother, father, or any other adult to your friends, always mention the adult's name first. “Dad, I'd like you to meet Mary. We're in the same class at school.” Your parents are interested in you and like to meet your friends. Both your parents and friends will feel better if you introduce them properly.
4. Every introduction should be acknowledged by both persons. A good reply is to simply say, “How do you do,” or “Hello.” This may be followed by a friendly comment to start a conversation.
5. Boys and men always shake hands when introduced to each other. Usually if a girl wishes to shake hands, she should extend her hand first.

If you forget a name, don't worry. Anyone can have this experience. Just say, “I'm sorry, your name has slipped my mind.” Then the person you are introduc-

ing will repeat his or her name, and you can complete the introduction.

If you are at a party or in a new class at school and find that you don't know someone, you can introduce yourself. For example, "I don't believe we have met; I'm Mary Johnson." The other person should then reply, "How do you do, Mary. I'm Sherri Anderson." If the other person does not answer, you can say, "What is your name?"

Introductions are easy if you make them often. Practice!

## Letters

It's fun to receive mail from a friend or relative who is far away. It's fun to write letters, too. Besides the friendly letters you write, other letters are sometimes necessary. These include invitations, replies to invitations, and thank you letters.

**Invitations.** A short, handwritten note is a perfect invitation to many kinds of events. Invitations also may be typed. Or a telephone call may be used for informal parties.

In writing an invitation, include your name, purpose, date, time, and place.

Example:

Dear Ann,

Will you come over for dinner next Saturday night at six o'clock? My cousin, Jean Smith, from Chicago will be here for the weekend. I know she would like to meet you.

Sincerely,  
Debbie

**Replies to Invitations.** When Ann receives this invitation, she should send a letter of acceptance or regret within 2 days. The reply can be short and simple.

Example:

Dear Debbie,

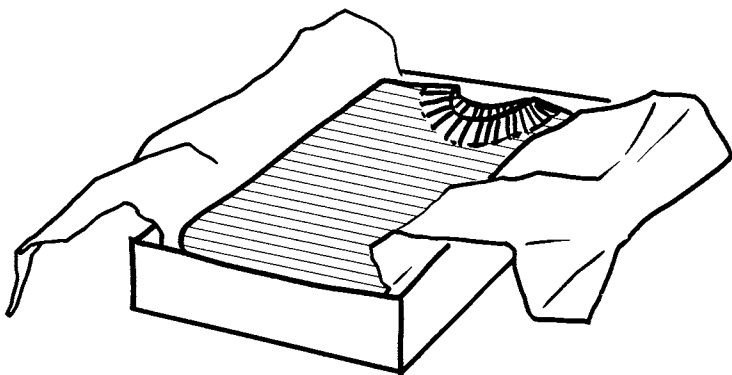
I'd like very much to come for dinner next Saturday evening. I'm looking forward to meeting your cousin, Jean.

Sincerely,  
Ann

Have you ever seen an invitation with the letters R.S.V.P. in the bottom corner? R.S.V.P. stands for "repondez s'il vous plait" in French. In English, it means "the favor of a reply is requested." So reply whether you can accept or not. If you cannot accept an invitation, telephone or answer by note, giving a good reason.

**Thank you letters.** There are no set rules for writing thank you notes to friends or family. Here are some tips to keep in mind as you write your letter:

1. Write as you talk.
2. Avoid making excuses for not writing sooner. Answer promptly.
3. Express your thanks clearly and briefly.
4. Printed thank you cards are not necessary. Plain paper is often the best choice.
5. The closing phrase depends on the person to whom you are writing. Some suggestions are "Sincerely," "As ever," and "Love."



Here is a simple thank you letter:

Dear Aunt Mary,

Thank you so much for the sweater you sent for my birthday. It's just what I wanted to wear to school. I hope that some day I will be able to knit that well. Tell Uncle Bob hello for me.

Love,  
Ann

A bread and butter letter is a brief thank you note written after a visit to someone's home. If you stay with a friend, write the note to your friend's parents. Write the letter promptly and give a sincere thank you for the invitation. It is also thoughtful to mention at least one special event or something exciting that happened during your visit.

Example:

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Martin,

Thanks for taking me to your lake cabin. I really had fun going fishing with Bob and Dale. The fish tasted good, too.

Jim

## Overnight Guests

It's fun to have friends stay at your home overnight. Talk to your parents to find out if you can invite one or several friends to your home. Plan how you can make your friend feel comfortable. If you have several friends for an overnight party, plan well ahead.

What preparations are necessary? Will everyone have a place to sleep? Your friends may bring their

own sleeping bags if they have them; if not, blankets or quilts spread on the floor will provide extra sleeping space.

Think about some things the other family members might like you to consider:

1. Time to turn off records (others in the home may have to get some sleep).
2. Snack food in the refrigerator—clearly marked. (Don't raid the refrigerator of everything in it.)
3. Time for showers and baths that will not disturb other family members.
4. At what time you and your friends will stay in the room. (Don't run through the house at all hours of the night.)
5. How to be thoughtful of others.
6. How to clean up after the party.

## ACTIVITIES

### The People in Your Life

Get to know the other members of your family better. Learn more about your ancestors. Learning about your family helps you understand why you think and act as you do. Here are some ideas for things you might like to do:

1. Learn about your family history. Make a scrapbook that includes family pictures and information about the family members in the pictures.
  - Where did your ancestors live?
  - Do you have a special family name that has been passed on through several generations?
  - Are there special stories or anecdotes about some of these people?
  - What is there about your home that tells other people of your background?
2. Visit with your grandparents or older persons about their childhood homes and furnishings. Find out all you can about the way they lived.
  - Where were their homes?
  - What things affected the way they lived?
  - How is your home environment different today?
3. Identify an object that was used in homes many years ago. Learn how it was used. How might it be used today?
4. Make, repair, or restore something for your home that shows your heritage. Examples include refinishing a wooden bowl or quilting hoops from your grandparents, matting and framing a quilting block, or cleaning a metal tool or bowl for your home.

# You in Your Home

The appearance of your home can affect the way you feel. Neat, clean surroundings help you feel at ease. This project has suggested activities to help you care for your home and make it a pleasant place to live.

Unit I, "Exploring Your Home," suggested activities for caring for your room. Are you proud of the your room looks? Do you like to have people see it? Look around your room and see what you think.

## How Does Your Room Rate?

	Yes	Needs More Work
● Is your bed neatly made?	_____	_____
● Is your room free from clutter?	_____	_____
● Are your closets and drawers clean and well organized?	_____	_____
● Is the furniture clean?	_____	_____
● Are books and magazines dusted and neatly arranged?	_____	_____
● Are the floors clean?	_____	_____
● Are small rugs clean and straight with the walls?	_____	_____
● Are windows, mirrors, and picture glass sparkling?	_____	_____
● Are lamps, lampshades, and bulbs clean?	_____	_____
● Are the curtains clean and hung straight?	_____	_____
● Are walls and woodwork clean?	_____	_____

Can you answer "yes" to all of these questions? Are there some areas that need work? Jobs around the house aren't hard if you:

- Plan *what* is to be done.
- Plan *when* to do it.
- Know *how* to get it done.

If you share your room, you also share the responsibility of keeping it clean. Working together can be fun. Now that you are older, you also can help take care of other areas in your home.

## Make It Easy for Yourself!

Learn how to plan and organize your cleaning. This helps you get your work done in the quickest possible time. Try some of these ideas.

- Group items together that will be used together. Place cloth with furniture polish, broom with dust pan, brush with shoe polish.
- Store items near where they are most often used or first used. Store sheets and pillowcases near the bed, books near the study area, pencils and paper near the telephone, and clothes by the dressing area.
- Keep duplicates in rooms in which the items are used often. Have pencils and papers near both the study area and the telephone, a hammer at the workbench and in the cleaning closet, cleaning supplies on each floor of your house, and cleanser at both the bathroom sink and the kitchen sink.
- Arrange a cleaning closet, wall, or shelves for storing cleaning equipment. If you have young brothers or sisters, store the cleaning supplies in a safe place either on a high shelf or in a locked closet. Cleaning supplies can poison children! Put a Mr. Yuk sign on the shelf or door. Mr. Yuk signs are available from county health centers.



- Arrange cleaning supplies in a basket or container. The container can be used both for storage and for carrying supplies from place to place. Tools could be placed in a tool box.
- Plan your time. Make a list of all the household jobs you need to do every day and every week. Plan when you would like to do them. See if you can keep this plan for 2 weeks. Then make any changes needed. For example, you may have planned to dust once a week but changed that to twice a week. Or you may have planned to pick up clothes and papers in your room every night before you go to bed but changed this to morning. Make your plan workable for you, then stick with it. Your space will be neat, your family will respect your efforts, and you'll have time for yourself, too.

### Changing A Bed

Your bed will be fresh and clean if you change the bedding once a week. This is something you can do, but you'll probably want someone to help you at first.

There is more than one way to change a bed. The way you change yours will depend on the type and style of your bed, the kind and amount of bedding, and also where your bed is placed in the room. You may discover special short-cuts after you have done it several times.

One method is given here, but may need to be changed to fit your situation.

1. Remove blankets, sheets, pillowcases, and bed-spread. Place spread and blankets on a chair or table. Fluff pillows and place to one side. Place soiled sheets and pillowcases in laundry bag or hamper.
2. Turn mattress if needed.
3. Turn and straighten mattress pad. Put on fresh pad when needed.
4. Place bottom sheet on bed with the center fold on the center of the mattress. If you are using a fitted sheet, slip the corner pockets over the corners of the mattress. On the last corners, you will need to lift the corner of the mattress to fit the sheet over the corner easily.

If you are using a flat sheet on the bottom, miter the corners this way:

- a. Stand facing the side of the bed at a corner. Take hold of the edge of the sheet about 2 feet from the corner.
- b. Lift it straight up, so that the edge of the sheet is perpendicular to the side of the mattress (see figure 1). Hold it with one hand.

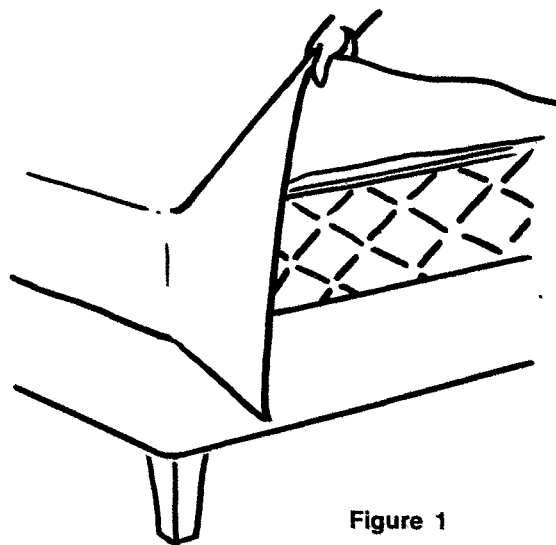


Figure 1



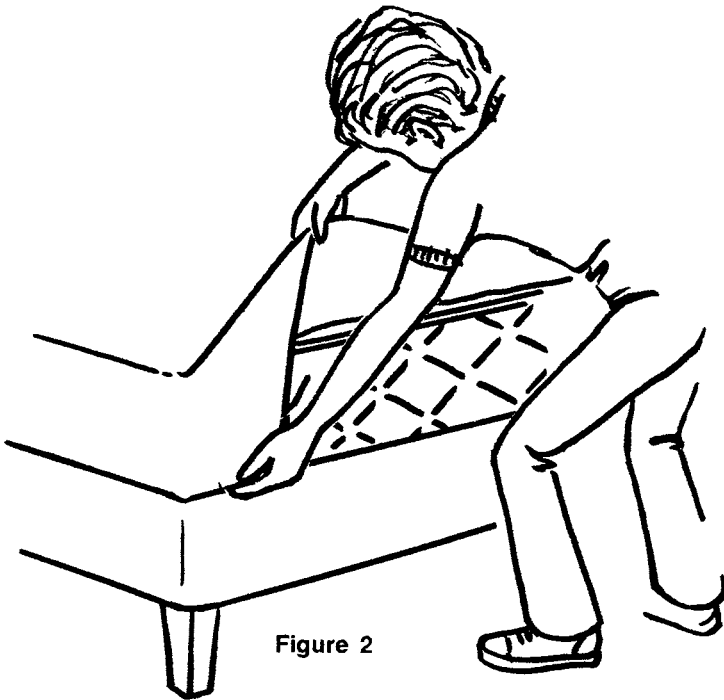


Figure 2

- c. With the other hand, tuck the lower end of the sheet under the mattress making a tight, square corner (see figure 2).

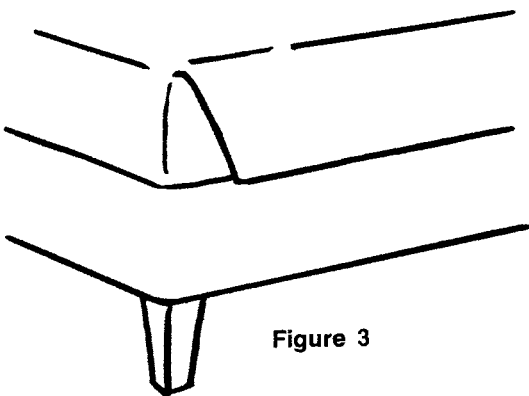


Figure 3

- d. Drop the triangular fold. Pull fold tightly and tuck sheet under mattress (see figure 3).  
 e. Miter other corners in the same way.
5. Spread the top sheet right side down with the wide hem a few inches over the mattress at the head of the bed. Miter the corners of the top sheet at the foot of the bed. The top corners are not mitered because the sheet will be folded back over the blankets.

6. Spread and smooth the blankets on the bed. Tuck the blankets under the mattress at the foot of the bed. Make a half-mitered corner with the blankets, but do not tuck the edges under the mattress.
7. Place bedspread over the blankets so that it hangs evenly over the sides. Fold spread back about 12 inches from the head of the bed.
8. Put clean cases on the pillows. Try putting the pillowcase on in different ways to find the best way for you.
9. Place pillows at the top of the bed. Cover the pillows with the spread. Straighten and smooth out wrinkles.
10. Clean up work area.



**REMINDER:** If you do a good job when you change your bed, it will be easier to make each morning.

## The Versatile Vacuum

The vacuum cleaner can do many cleaning jobs around the house—rugs and carpets, upholstered furniture and mattresses, and hard-to-reach places. Dust and dirt are removed, not just moved around. To do this, it's important to know how to safely operate the vacuum and all of its attachments. Be sure to follow the manufacturer's direction book.

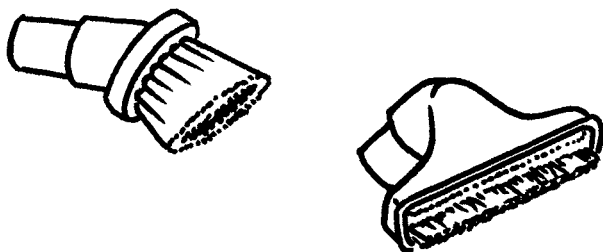
Proper care will help keep your home dust-free and the rugs and carpets in good condition. Thoroughly clean rugs and carpets at least once a week. Depending upon your family, the floors may need a light cleaning more often. Here are suggestions on how to vacuum:

1. Move all but the heaviest pieces of furniture from one section of the room.
2. Begin in one corner. Move the vacuum cleaner slowly back and forth over one strip of rug. Make two to three strokes for light cleaning, four to seven for thorough cleaning.
3. Then do the same on the next strip. Each new strip should overlap the previous one.
4. When this area is completed, continue vacuuming each section of the room until the rug is finished.

A canister cleaner usually needs twice as many strokes for the same cleaning power as an upright cleaner. Try to keep the nozzle of the canister cleaner as flat as possible when using it. Move it briskly back and forth over the rug.

#### Attachments

**Dusting Tool**—helps dust tabletops, window ledges, and wood chairs. Be sure the brush is clean so light fabrics are not soiled.



**Upholstery Tool**—helps clean sofas, upholstered chairs, mattresses, pillows, and draperies. Move the tool slowly, working from the top down. Cover each area several times.

**Crevice Tool**—helps clean hard-to-reach places like radiators, between the seat and back of upholstered chairs, the edge of carpeting, and drawer corners.



Take good care of your vacuum. Pick up hard or sharp objects before vacuuming. Empty cleaner bag frequently. If the bag is the kind you throw away, change it often.

Clean the attachments and brushes before you put them away. Then they will be ready to use the next time they are needed.

## Windows, Mirrors, and Other Glass

Window panes, mirrors, and picture glass should be dusted every week with a dry cloth. When necessary, clean them with clear warm water. You may add a detergent. For very soiled windows, add vinegar or household ammonia. Wash glass and dry with soft dry cloths or newspapers.

Some homemade cleaners for mirrors and windows are:

- 1 tablespoon household ammonia to 1 quart warm water
- 1 tablespoon vinegar to 1 quart warm water
- 2 teaspoons borax to 1 quart warm water
- 1 or 2 teaspoons washing soda or tri-sodium phosphate (TSP) to 1 quart warm water.

There are also many commercial cleaners available. Use all cleaners according to the directions. This is important both for your safety and care of furnishings.

**EXPERIMENT:** It is interesting to compare some homemade cleaners with commercial, ready-to-use cleaners. Compare ease of use, effectiveness of cleaner, and cost. Which does the best job for you?



**Safety Hint:** A step stool or sturdy ladder (not a chair) is safer to use when cleaning high windows.

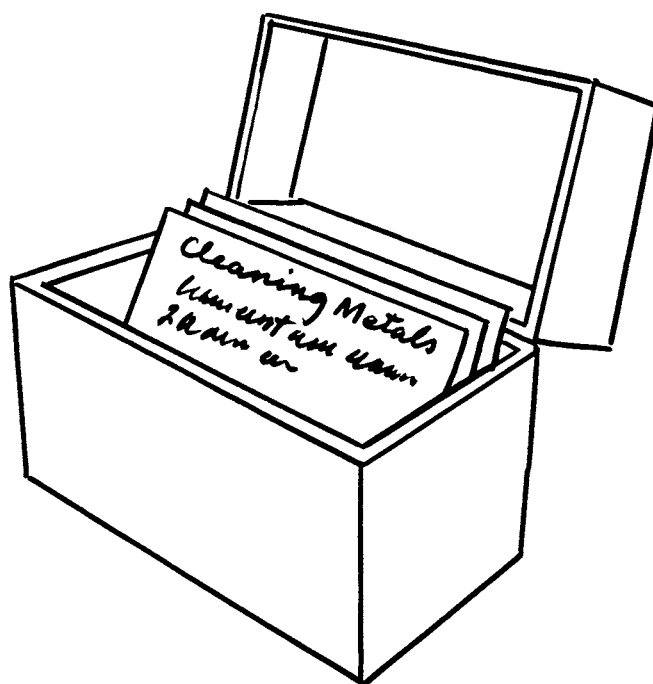
## Cleaning Metals

Many furnishings are made of metals. Ask your mother or 4-H leader for help in identifying the different metals in your home. These metals can be kept clean and sparkling by using either homemade or commercial cleaners. Here are some suggestions for cleaning metal surfaces.

1. *Solid brass, bright finish*—Wash tarnished brass in hot suds. Dry. Rub thoroughly with a brass polish or copper cleaner to remove tarnish and spots. When polished, buff with soft flannel cloth or chamois. Clean an embossed design with a soft brush.
2. *Solid brass, soft dull finish*—Mix rottenstone and linseed oil to the consistency of heavy cream. Apply to tarnished brass with soft cloth. Clean curves and embossed designs with a soft brush. Rub until tarnish is removed. Clean mixture from surface with a soft cloth dipped in linseed oil. Wipe oil from surface with a soft, clean cloth. Rub with a flannel polishing cloth.
3. *Antique brass*—Rub with lemon oil. Polish with a soft cloth. Corrosion may be removed from brass with a piece of lemon dipped in salt. Small articles can be boiled in water containing salt and vinegar or washing soda and water.
4. *Lacquered brass*—Brass that has been given a protective coating of lacquer needs regular dusting, and occasional washing with light mild suds made with lukewarm water. Rinse and dry.
5. *Copper*—Wash in hot, soapy water. Use a commercial copper cleaner or sprinkle salt on the surface. Pour vinegar over salt and rub with a soft cloth. Wash in hot soapy water. Rinse and dry. HINT: Salt, vinegar, and flour can be combined to make a paste. This paste mixture is easier to apply to rounded surfaces.
6. *Chrome or Stainless Steel*—Wipe with a soft, damp cloth. Polish with a soft, dry cloth. Be careful not to scratch the surface.  
If the surface has been badly neglected, dip a soft, dampened cloth into fine whiting and rub carefully. Then wipe with a damp cloth and dry.
7. *Silver or silverplate*—Use a commercially prepared silver polish in liquid, powder, or paste form. Follow instructions carefully.
8. *Tole (painted metal lamps and accessories)*—Mix 1 part turpentine with 10 parts mineral oil. Apply with a soft cloth. Wipe thoroughly with a clean, soft cloth.

**EXPERIMENT:** Try two different homemade cleaners or one homemade and one purchased cleaner. Use one kind on one metal candle holder or one-half of metal bowl or tray. Use the other kind on the second candle holder or other half of bowl or tray. Can you tell the difference in appearance? How would you compare the ease of cleaning and the cost?

Start a file, booklet, or collection of ideas and “recipes” for cleaning household furnishings. Add to your list such directions as the care of pewter or other special surfaces. Care of tools could also be included.



## Cleaning the Bathroom

The bathroom sink, bathtub, and toilet are some of the most often cleaned areas in a home. The sink needs cleaning frequently. The tub should be cleaned after each use.

A porcelain finish on your sink, bathtub, and toilet will chip, crack, and stain if not cared for properly. Using abrasive cleaners on these smooth surfaces may dull or scratch the surface and cause dirt to stick to it. Use either a mild, non-abrasive purchased cleaner such as Bon-ami, or Bar Keeper's Friend, or a homemade cleaner for these bathroom fixtures. Fiberglass finishes need special care. Most dealers recommend using only liquid cleaner for fiberglass.

Good homemade cleaners are 1 quart of water and 2 teaspoons of any one of the following—borax, tri-

sodium phosphate (TSP), ammonia, or other all-purpose household cleaners such as Spic and Span or Mr. Clean. Follow directions printed on the container. Remember to polish the metal fixtures with a soft cloth. After scrubbing sink and tub, rinse with a clean cloth and running water.

**TIME-SAVER:** Use a water softener in hard water to prevent a soap film from forming on the sides of the tub.



**Keeping the Toilet Clean**

The toilet bowl needs to be cleaned at least once a week, more often if necessary. The job doesn't take long if you use this method.

- Lift toilet seat and put in soap, detergent, or toilet bowl cleaner. Let this stand while you clean the tub and bathroom sink.

**CAUTION:** Don't use liquid chlorine bleach (such as Hi-lex or Clorox) and ammonia or bowl cleaners (such as Sani-flush) together because poisonous gases are formed.

- Wipe both sides of toilet seat, lid, rim, and outside of toilet bowl with sudsy cloth. Wipe top, sides, and bottom of tank.
- Scrub inside of toilet bowl with a long-handled brush. Use this brush ONLY for cleaning toilet. Then flush toilet.
- Keep toilet brush in an empty jar or container. Store all cleaning supplies out of the reach of small children.

**Keeping the Bathroom Tidy**

After each use, you can help keep the bathroom clean and tidy by hanging up towels and washcloth, turning off faucets, washing out the bathtub, and flushing the toilet.

With proper cleaning and daily care the bathroom will look good and smell clean.

**Other Household Jobs**

There are many other jobs to be done around a home. Talk over the things that need to be done with other members of your family. Select one or two jobs in addition to your room that you will be responsible for doing. Some things you could consider are:

- Setting the table and washing dishes for family meals.
- Cleaning the basement.
- Cleaning the bathroom weekly.
- Vacuuming or sweeping all the floors in your home.
- Cleaning a room in addition to your bedroom.
- Helping a little brother or sister clean up his/her sleeping and play areas.
- Cleaning the garage.
- Keeping workbench in order and tools properly cared for.
- Helping sort and fold laundry.

You will probably think of other things that need to be done at your home. Whatever you choose, it should be something on which both you and your parents agree. If for some reason you are unable to do this job according to your agreement, be sure to let them know as soon as possible. This shows that you are dependable and are able to assume some adult responsibilities. Also, you won't need to listen to reminders and possible scoldings!

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What is a clean house? *What do you think?* Talk over your ideas with your leader and your family. How important is it to you to have your room clean and orderly?

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How important is it to you to have other rooms in your home clean and orderly? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

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How important is a clean and orderly home to other family members?

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How clean is clean to you? To other family members? \_\_\_\_\_

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## ACTIVITIES

### Jobs Around The House

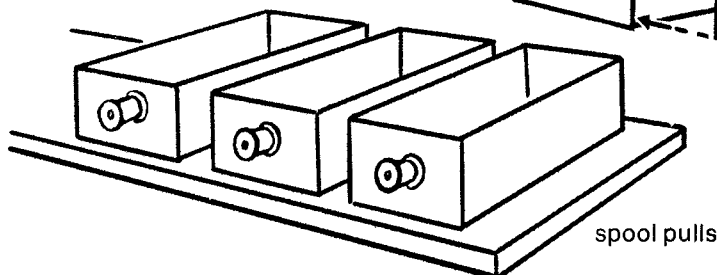
On the list below, check the **five** jobs you most dislike.

- Cleaning windows
- Taking out the trash
- Making the bed
- Vacuuming
- Cleaning the bathroom
- Dusting furniture
- Changing sheets on the bed
- Washing dishes
- Drying dishes
- Taking care of plants
- Picking up and straightening your room
- Washing windows and mirrors
- Cleaning metals
- Sorting and folding laundry
- Raking leaves
- Shoveling snow from sidewalks
- Mowing the yard
- Setting the table for family meals

Did you check **only five**? Good! Now think about each job. Talk about your feelings with your leader and your parents. Discuss these questions:

- Why do you dislike each job?
- What would make the job easier?
- What is the best time of day to do it?
- How often does it need to be done?
- Are there special tools or cleaners that might help?
- Can, and should, the job be split into more than one session?
- Should everyone in the family share the jobs around the house?

Ask other family members about the jobs they like and dislike. Can you trade responsibility for some jobs? What happens when everyone dislikes the same jobs?



## Storage Helpers

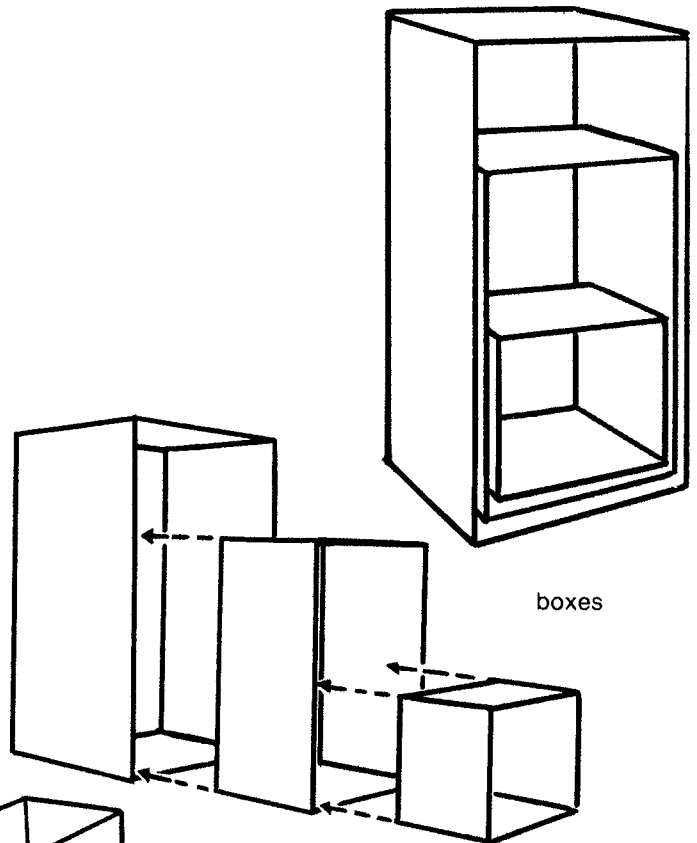
Storage can sometimes be a problem in your own room or in other areas of the home. There are some things you can do to make better use of or make more storage space. Problem solving is involved in this process of designing storage space. Problem solving helps you reach a decision about something that bothers you.

We all collect a lot of things: books, records, sports gear, stamps, clothes. To get the most use of these items, it is a good idea to have adequate storage space in a convenient place.

### Storage Units You Can Make

Shelves of concrete blocks or bricks and boards make ideal storage space. You can make a decorative arrangement to store books, records, models, and boxes. The boards can be stained and varnished or painted to coordinate with the colors in your room.

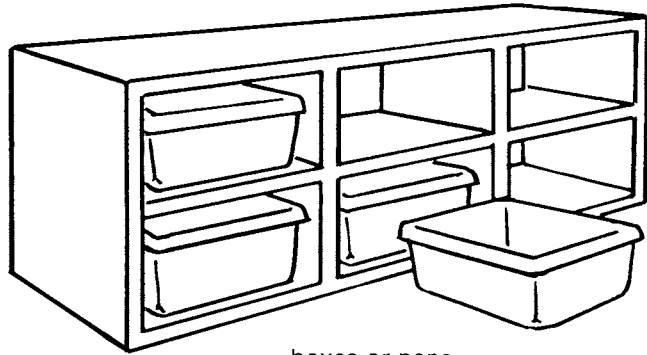
Collect sturdy cardboard boxes for temporary storage space. The boxes can be painted or covered with decorative paper and stacked in a variety of ways.



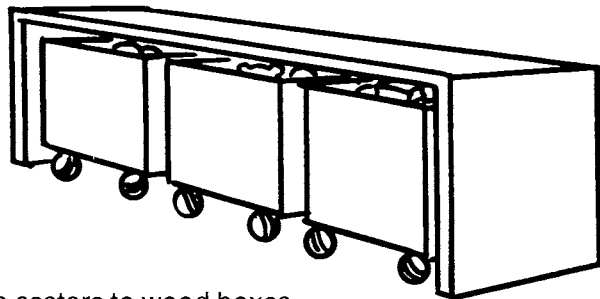
If you have tools and materials, you may want to build your own storage. Your industrial arts teacher may be able to help you find directions for building any number of storage units. Libraries also have good references for building things at home.

You may be able to reuse or recycle some items around your home.

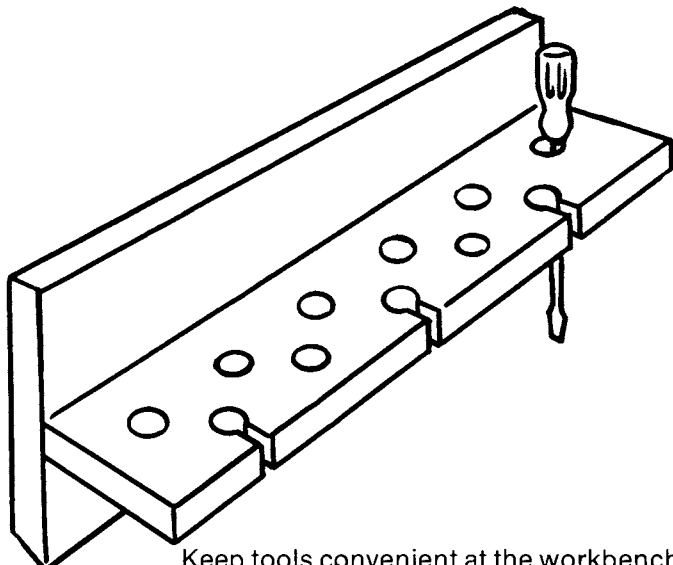
Make a plywood frame to hold plastic dishpans or cardboard boxes.



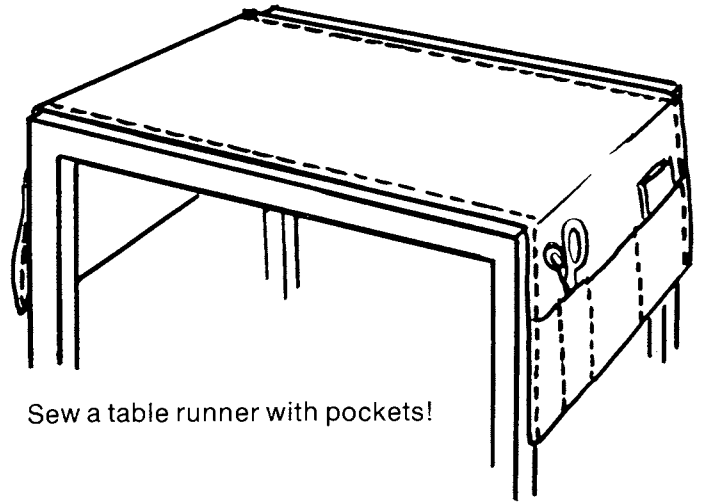
boxes or pans



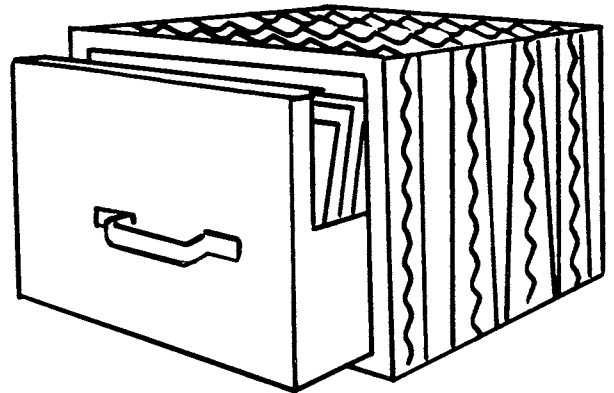
Fasten casters to wood boxes.



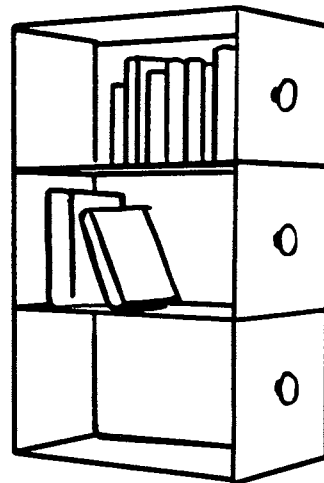
Keep tools convenient at the workbench.



Sew a table runner with pockets!



Paint or decorate a one-drawer file cabinet for records. Add casters on the bottom.

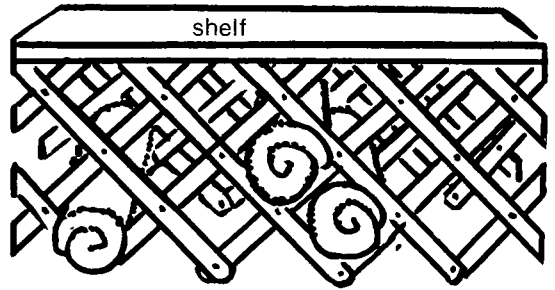
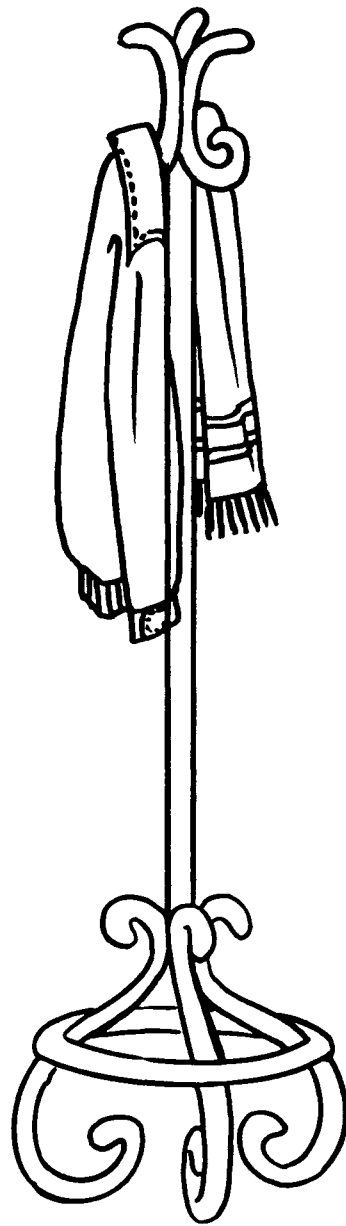


Bookcase from old dresser drawers or, singly, a hanging shelf.

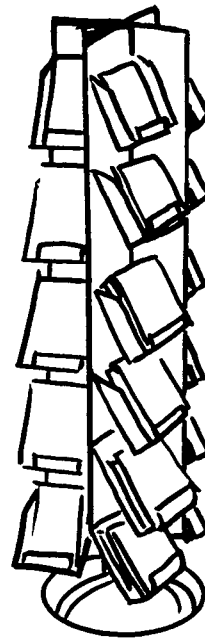
More ideas:

Coat rack for clothes, plants,  
or other things.

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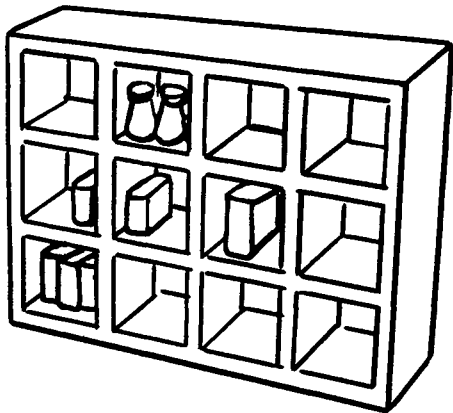


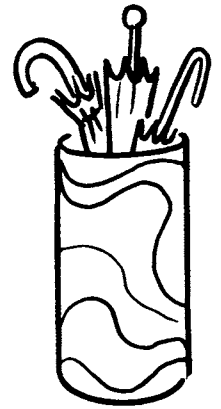
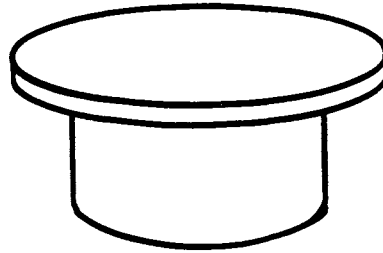
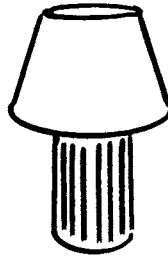
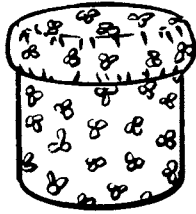
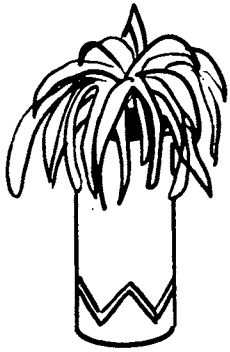
Folding wine rack for rolled towels or magazines.



Paperback display rack.

Spice rack from a pop bottle crate.





Sono tubes are used for concrete forms. You can get them at concrete companies and building construction suppliers. They are cardboard tubes that come in diameters from 4 inches to 48 inches. The tubes are usually sold by the foot—sometimes with a cutting charge. They have MANY uses.

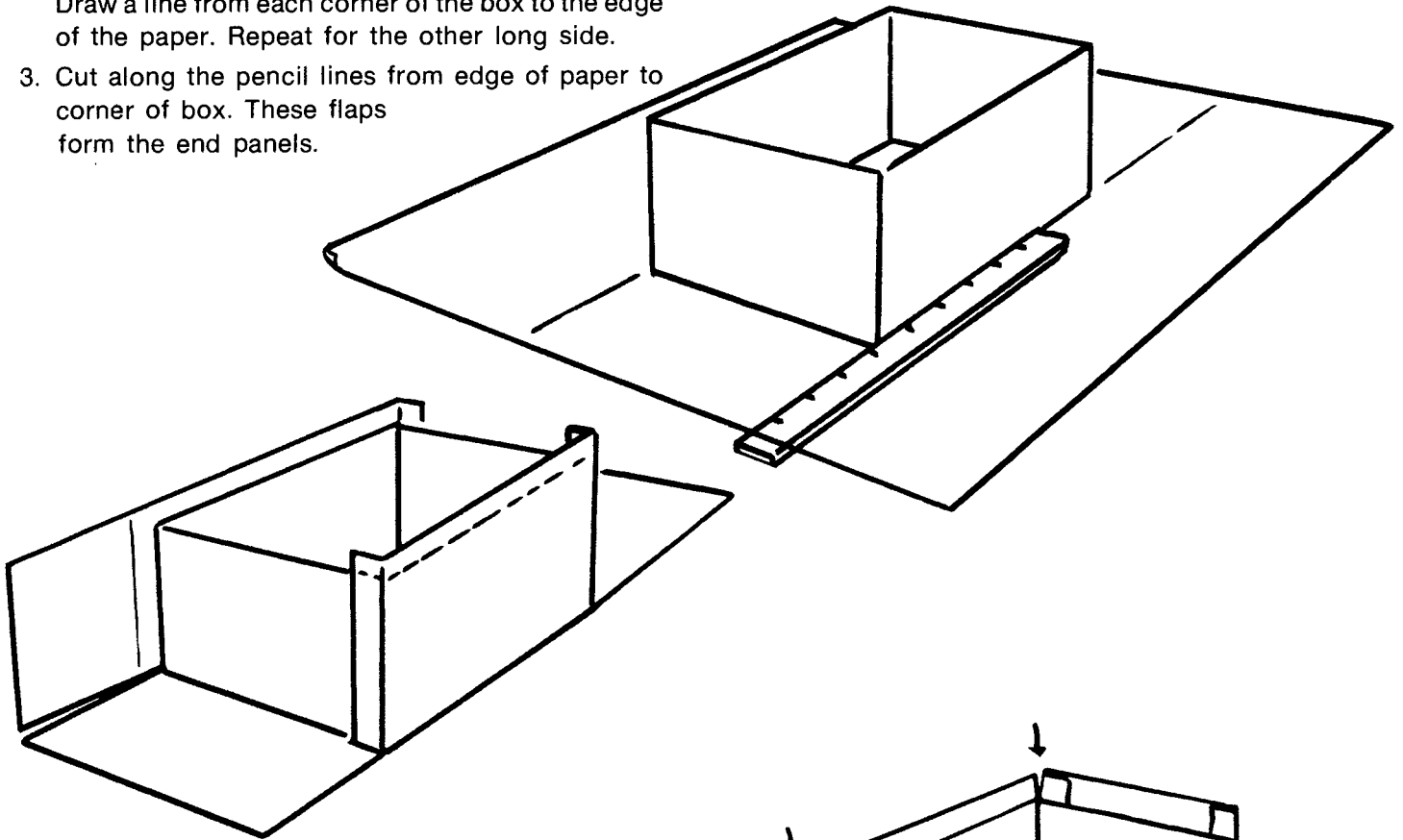
- Stools and Tables
- Plant Stands
- Wastebaskets
- Baseball bat racks
- Toy boxes
- Etc...etc...etc...

**Sketching Space for Your Ideas:**

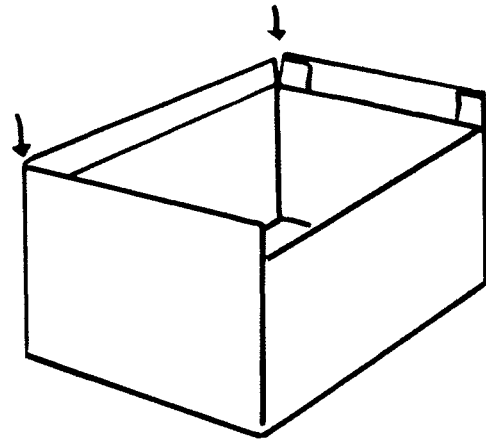




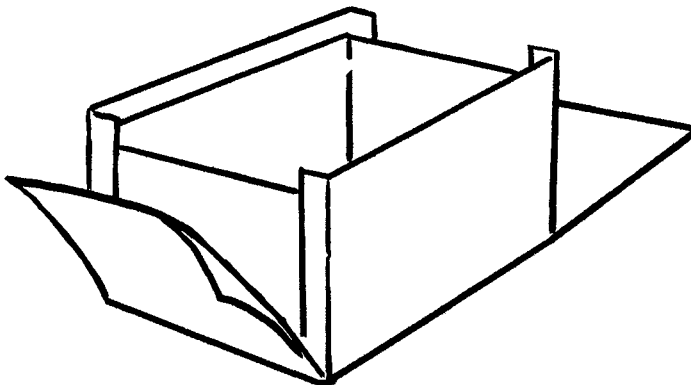
2. Lay ruler or yardstick next to the long side of box. Draw a line from each corner of the box to the edge of the paper. Repeat for the other long side.
3. Cut along the pencil lines from edge of paper to corner of box. These flaps form the end panels.



4. Spread glue on one long side of box. Pull covering paper up over it. Smooth out bubbles by rubbing from bottom to top, center to corners. The paper will extend beyond the box corners. Trim paper extension leaving a 2-inch flap on each end. Spread glue on the flaps and smooth them into place. Do other long side in the same way.
5. Spread glue on box ends and smooth the end panels up over the box ends.



6. Clip corners on flaps sticking up above the box. Spread glue on flaps and smooth them down inside the box.

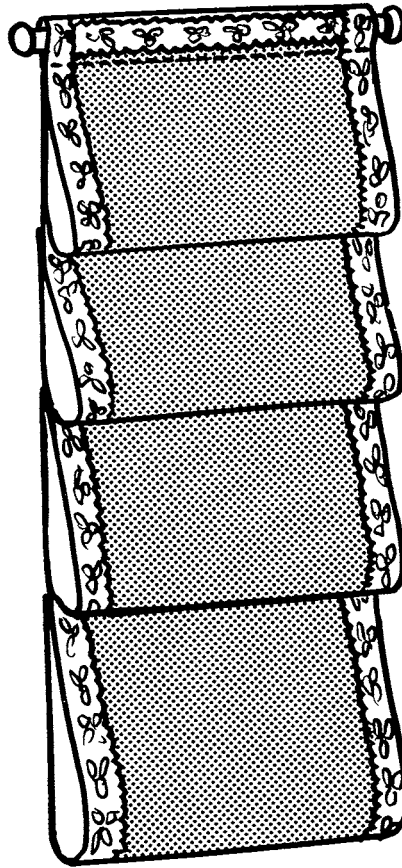


Ask yourself these questions:

- Is the box strong and sturdy?
- Is the paper smooth, without wrinkles or air bubbles?
- Is the paper clean and neat, without tears or glue spots?
- Do you like the color and pattern used?
- How much did this project cost?

## THINGS TO MAKE

### Fabric Storage Caddy



You will need:

- 3 yards mediumweight reversible fabric
- Tape measure
- Tailor's chalk
- Scissors
- Dressmakers' pins
- 6½ yards flat eyelet trim or ribbon, 2 inches wide
- Thread to match
- Round curtain rod or wood dowel, 18 inches long and 1¼ inches thick
- Wooden curtain rod brackets

What to do:

1. Press fabric. Measure, mark, and cut a strip of fabric 16 inches wide and 3 yards long. Measure and cut ribbon or trim into two 3-yard long pieces. You will have ½ yard ribbon left. You will use this later.

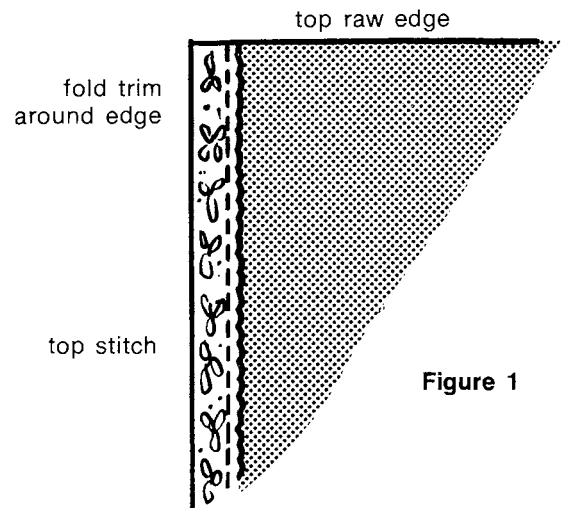


Figure 1

2. Fold trim around each long raw edge of fabric, making sure both ends are even. You may find it helpful to fold trim in half and press before fastening to edge of fabric. Topstitch in place ¾ inch in from the outer edge (see figure 1).

- Attach the  $\frac{1}{2}$  yard of trim across the width of the fabric and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches down from the top raw edge on the right side of the fabric. Fit the trim between the two lengthwise strips of trim on each side (see figure 2).

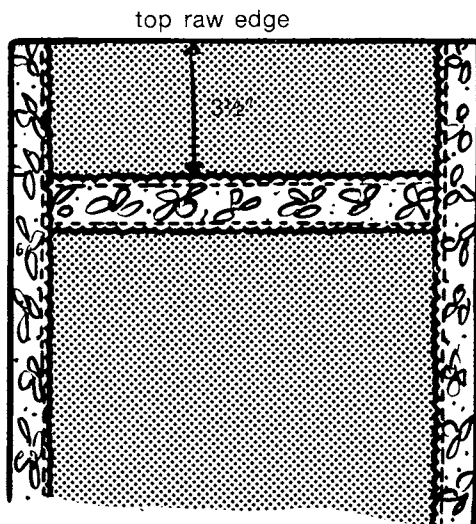


Figure 2

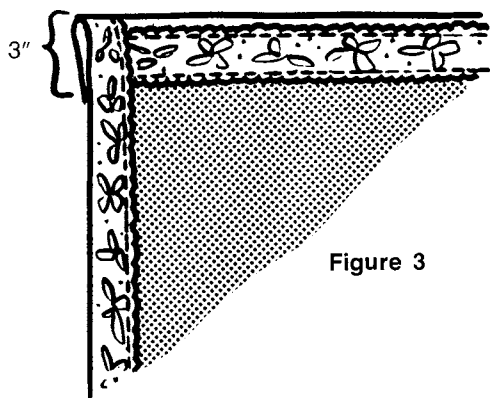


Figure 3

- Form casing for the curtain rod. To do this, turn down top raw edge 3 inches onto wrong side of fabric. Press. Baste  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch from raw edge (see figure 3). Then double the length of the fabric back on itself, right sides out, to make a compartment 8 inches deep. The top of this 8-inch compartment should be in line with the basting that was done  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch from the raw edge. Stitch across the width of the fabric following the basting lines. This will finish the top rod casing and the top compartment.
- Finish the second compartment. Fold the length of fabric back on itself, right sides out, to form another 8-inch compartment. The top line of this second compartment should be  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches below the stitch-

ing line of the first or top compartment. Stitch across the width of the fabric. Be careful not to stitch through the bottom of the first compartment as you sew. (You may find masking tape helpful for marking the stitching line. Remove tape carefully.)

- Repeat the above steps to form a 10-inch compartment. The top of this compartment should be 7 inches below the stitching line of the compartment just above.
- Finish the bottom compartment by turning the raw edge under  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch and pressing. Then fold the fabric back on itself to form a 12-inch compartment. The top of this fourth compartment will be 9 inches below the stitching line of the third compartment. Stitch across the width of fabric.
- Attach wooden curtain rod brackets to wall. Slip storage caddy on rod. Place on brackets.

Ask yourself these questions:

- Does the storage caddy fit the space where it is used?
- Do the colors look nice?
- Is the stitching straight and even?
- Is it sturdy and large enough for the things to be stored?
- Is it clean and well pressed?

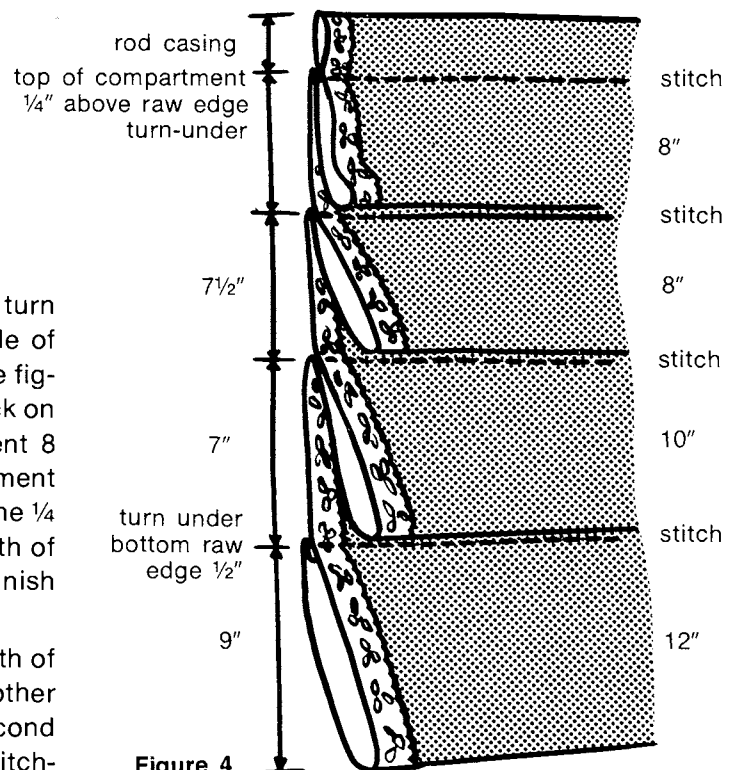


Figure 4

## THINGS TO MAKE

### Ship's Ladder Towel Rack

This rack can be used either in the bathroom or the kitchen. You may think of other uses for the rack, too.

You will need:

- 5 yards polished, braided cord, or #8 clothesline or hemp rope ¼-inch thick
- 4 wooden slats, 1" x ½" x 16"
- Lead pencil
- Ruler
- Sandpaper, medium grade
- Drill
- Single-edge razor blade
- Fishing line (braided filament)
- Upholstery needle
- Nails or decorative hooks

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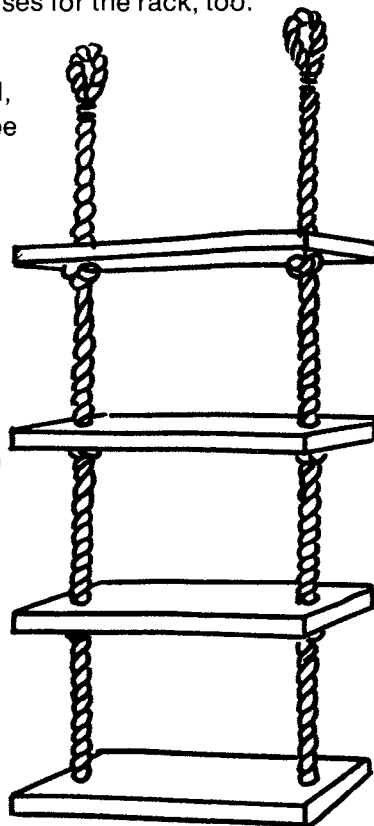


Figure 1

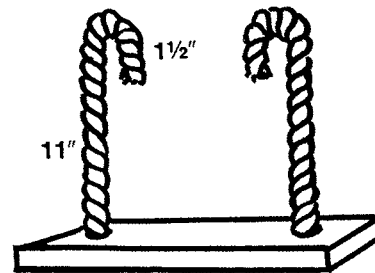


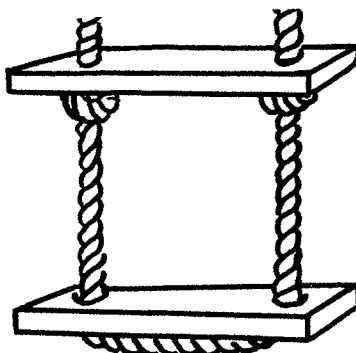
Figure 2



Figure 3

What to do:

1. Cut wooden slats to correct size. Sand edges. Drill ¼ inch holes (the same diameter as the clothesline or rope), ¾ inch in from each end of the slats and centered horizontally. Finish wood with water resistant finish.
2. Thread clothesline or rope through holes, making sure both ends are pulled even. In each side of the clothesline, tie a single knot 7 inches up from the top of the slat. Thread second slat onto clothesline. Make sure slat rests evenly on top of the knots (see figure 1). Continue knotting and adding slats until all four are attached.



3. Allowing 11 inches above the final slat, form 1½-inch loops on each side. Cut off excess with razor blade and make sure cut ends of rope face in towards the center (see figure 2).
4. Bind loops with fishing line wrapped 1 inch up from cut end. Secure line ends by knotting or threading and drawing them through the center of the bound section with an upholstery needle (see figure 3).
5. Hang finished ship's ladder from nails or decorative hooks.

Ask yourself these questions:

- Do the shelves hang evenly?  Yes  No
- Is the wood smooth and the finish even?  Yes  No
- Is the rope securely tied at each shelf?  Yes  No
- Is the rope neatly and tightly finished at the top?  Yes  No

## THINGS TO MAKE

### Fabric Covered Brick Doorstops or Bookends

You will need:

- 1 brick
- 1 sheet heavy grade sandpaper
- Scissors
- Felt fabric, about  $\frac{1}{4}$  yard solid plus contrasting colors
- Tapestry yarn or embroidery floss
- Tapestry or embroidery needle
- Tracing paper
- Pencil

What to do:

1. Sand rough edges and irregularities from brick.
2. Draw outline of brick on paper. Plan design for this space. This may be a geometric design, design to match a pattern in the room, your initials, or whatever you like.
3. Measure, mark, and cut out two sections of felt  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch larger on all sides than the top and bottom of the brick (see figure 1).
4. Apply design, if used, to felt sections.
5. Measure, mark, and cut out two sections of felt  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch larger on all sides than the length of one long and one short side of the brick (see figure 2).
6. Pin-baste felt sections together around brick, tucking in  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch seam allowances as you do so.
7. Using tapestry yarn or embroidery floss, slip-stitch seams together.

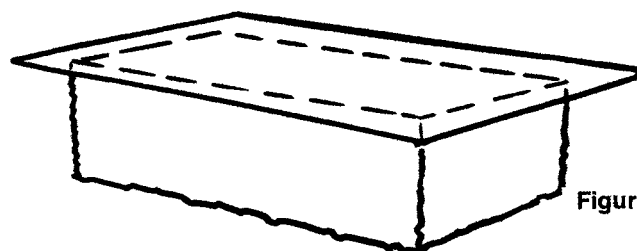
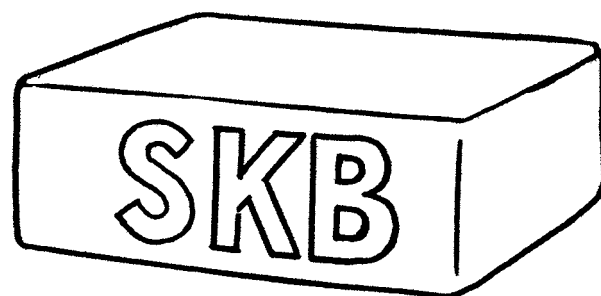


Figure 1

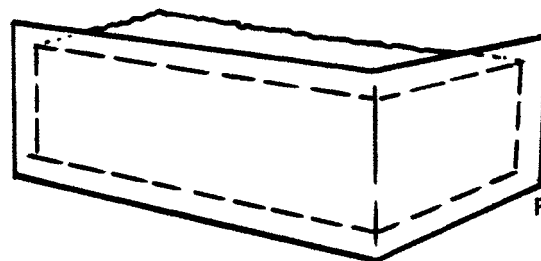


Figure 2

# You and Design

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It is exciting to learn how design can help create liveable and comfortable homes before selecting colors, making fabric choices, and buying things for your home.

## The World Around Us

Everyday we see and learn new things. Most of the time we take our daily surroundings for granted. Do we ever look closely at a rock, tree, snowflake, or a delicate apple blossom? Do we really notice the things around us in our homes?

Become aware of your environment. Looking closely at plants, animals, rocks, or fungus might open up a whole new world for us. Each day, find something that you feel is beautiful and watch it for awhile. You will become more conscious of things in your everyday surroundings. You may start a habit.

As you become more aware of your surroundings, notice how many natural materials and designs are used in your home. Imagine a home without wood, plants, stone, clay, minerals, and other natural materials? What would it be like? Look for design ideas (patterns) in your home that come from nature. Check fabrics, pictures, dinnerware, and other accessories for designs that come from nature.

## How Aware Are You?

How well do you know the things you see every day? Try drawing a picture of your home from memory. Can you remember all of the details?

Now take a look at your home and compare it to your drawing. How did you do? How aware are you?

### **What Is Design?**

Design involves many things. Design is a *plan* for order. Take any kind of a problem and an orderly plan or arrangement can result. As you work with design, you will soon realize that design is *also* an expression of yourself. Whether you are using materials to make something for your room or whether you are arranging furniture or flowers, the result (design, plan) is an expression of you, your interests, your likes and dislikes. This leads to another important word: *individuality*. Part of you goes into each of your efforts. You can design many things, and each one is unique.

Design is everywhere! Take a look at Nature! Nature has all the examples possible to help explain the design elements. These are also called tools of design:

- Color
- Texture
- Line
- Shape or Form
- Space

You can find all of these design elements in your homes, too. Let's take a look at each of these elements.

### **Color**

Color is one of the things that most people notice first. Both nature and your home are filled with color.

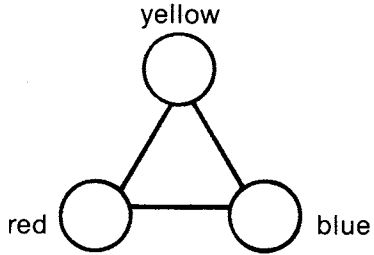
**Hue:** The name of a color, such as blue (sky), green (grass), yellow (sun), red (fire), orange (sunset), violet (storm clouds). Find these colors in your home.

Color comes from light. Light rays are reflected or absorbed depending upon the length of the rays to make different hues.



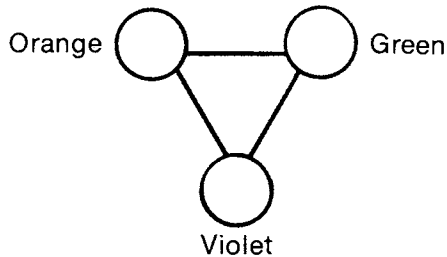
Let's look at one system that is often used to explain the idea of color:

- All colors are derived from 3 basic hues:



These hues are called *PRIMARY COLORS*

- When two primary hues are mixed,

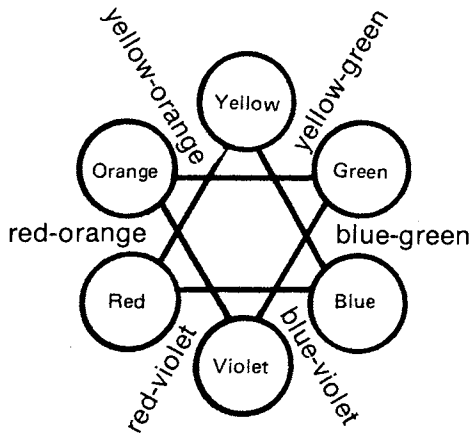


*SECONDARY COLORS* are formed.

- From then on, each time the hues are mixed another new color is made. The third set of colors are called *TERTIARY COLORS*

There are hundreds of possibilities for mixing colors.

These colors are sometimes arranged in a color wheel which is a circular arrangement of colors. It is helpful in identifying which colors are neighboring (close together, related) and those that are contrasting (far away from one another).



We often speak about tints or shades of color. This refers to the value of a color. *Value* means lightness or darkness.

$$\text{Color} + \text{White} = \text{Tint}$$

$$\text{Color} + \text{Black} = \text{Shade}$$

There are many varieties of tints and shades. Can you name a few? Is pink a tint or a shade?

**Chroma, or intensity**, is also used to describe color. It refers to the brightness or dullness of a hue. Dull colors are a result of the hue plus a bit of its complement. Complementary colors are located directly across from each other on the color wheel (red and green, blue and orange).

Can you name other complementary colors?

**EXPERIMENT:** Cut red, purple, and blue construction paper into large squares. Cut smaller circles of green, yellow, and orange. Place the complementary colors together. What happens to the colors? Try other combinations of colors, such as red with yellow and green with blue. How do you feel about the combinations of colors now?

**Choosing colors for your home.** Colors affect how we feel—or maybe we choose colors that make us feel happy, quiet, active, or calm. Think about the colors

listed below. Write a word by each one that describes how you feel about each color.

Red \_\_\_\_\_

Yellow \_\_\_\_\_

Blue \_\_\_\_\_

Orange \_\_\_\_\_

Green \_\_\_\_\_

Violet \_\_\_\_\_

**Warm and cool colors.** Some colors are called warm and others are called cool. People connect yellow, orange, and red with heat. These “warm” colors encourage activity and excitement. Green, blue, and violet are “cool” colors. They seem fresh and calm.

One football coach used warm and cool colors to help him. His team stayed excited at half-time in a red dressing room. The visiting team relaxed in a dressing room painted blue and lost the game.

Color can affect whether we feel warm or cold in a room. People working in blue rooms have complained of chills. This chilling was stopped by putting orange covers on the chairs.

When you select colors for a room, your guide should be the mood you want to express. Your choice of colors, the amounts used, and the placement of colors in the room will contribute to creating the desired effect.

**Colors for safety.** Bright colors attract attention. Industry uses color for safety. Many homes also use color to attract attention to certain areas.

### Safety Check

Look around your home. How is color used for safety?

\_\_\_\_ Hand rails are a different color than the walls.

\_\_\_\_ Ladder—bottom and top steps are a bright, contrasting color.

\_\_\_\_ Fire extinguisher—bright red.

\_\_\_\_ First aid kit—a bright color.

\_\_\_\_ Basement steps—top and bottom steps a bright color.

\_\_\_\_ Light switches—plates can be seen in the dark.

Did you discover other ways color is used for safety in

or around your home? \_\_\_\_\_

## ACTIVITIES

### Colors

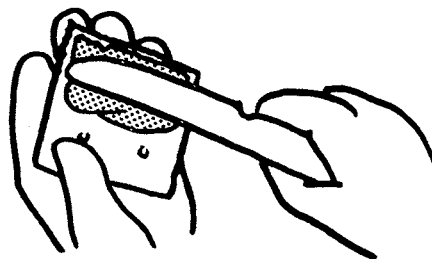
Circle the answers to the following questions:

1. What color do clothes become in a dark closet?  
gray blue violet black white
2. The primary colors are:  
red black yellow brown blue orange
3. What are the secondary colors?  
gray orange green red black violet
4. One example of complementary colors is:  
yellow and green orange and blue  
red and white
5. The cool colors are:  
white blue brown green violet
6. Examples of warm colors are:  
black yellow green blue red orange

Answer the following questions:

7. What is your favorite color? \_\_\_\_\_
8. How does it make you feel? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What color is used most often in your home? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Does it seem warmer or cooler on  
cloudy winter days? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**EXPERIMENT IDEA:** Make a color wheel. Use poster paints, water colors, or colored paper and a mediumweight white drawing paper for background. Another idea is to use white frosting and red, yellow, and blue food coloring. Mix a small amount of frosting in each primary and secondary color. Frost cookies or graham crackers with each color. Which colors are eaten first? Why?



## Texture

Wherever we go, whatever we see, textures are there! Touch objects! Feel the surface. Textures tell how something is:

- Looks—shiny, dull, crinkled
- Feels—smooth, rough, bumpy
- Handles—soft, stiff

Explore your surroundings. Close your eyes and feel with your fingers. Touch a corn cob, a honeycomb, a kitten, grass, sidewalk, and tree bark. How do you feel about the different textures? Try combining different textures. Do you like the contrasts?

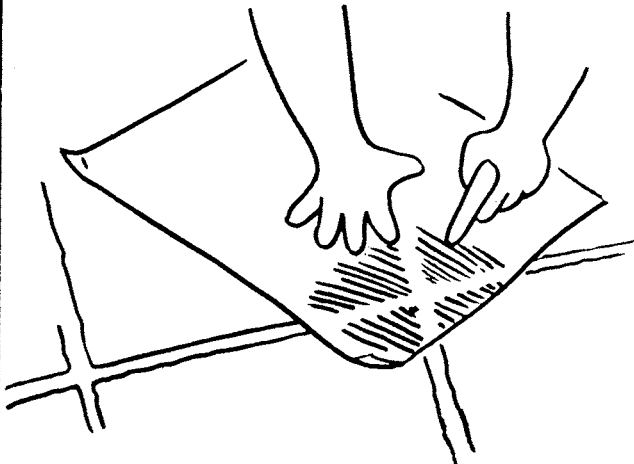
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**EXPERIMENT:** Collect four items that have different textures. Write a word that describes the texture of each item.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**EXPERIMENT:** Another way to discover interesting textures is to do rubbings of a variety of objects. Sidewalks, tree bark, house siding, rocks, a brick wall, and many other things are excellent sources for rubbings.

To make your rubbing, place paper over the surface and rub paper with a crayon or soft-lead pencil until the texture shows through. Try a variety of colors, too. You may want to display your best rubbings in your room or a family room.



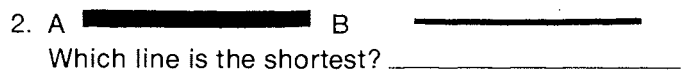
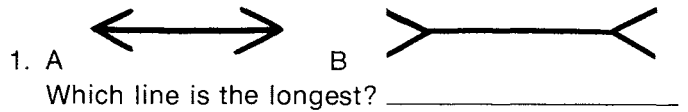
## Line

Lines help create beauty and order. They outline shapes and lead the eyes from place to place. Lines can create optical illusions.

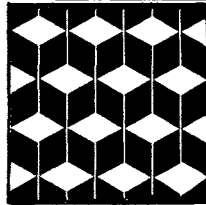
### ACTIVITIES


#### Experimenting with Lines

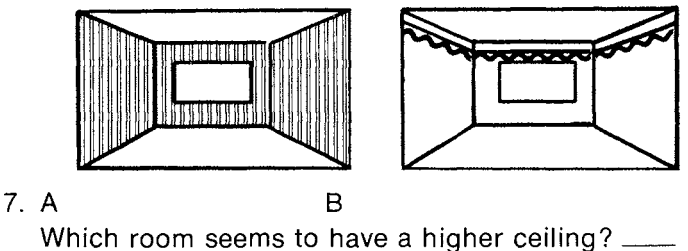
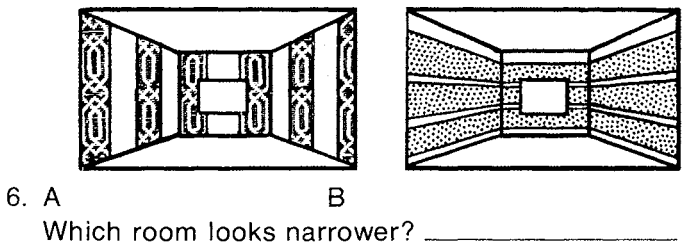
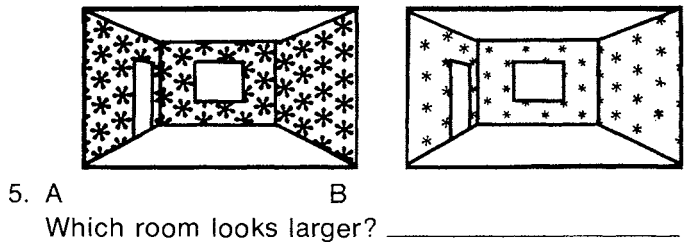
Study the examples below and answer the questions in the spaces provided.



3. How many blocks are there in this picture? \_\_\_\_\_



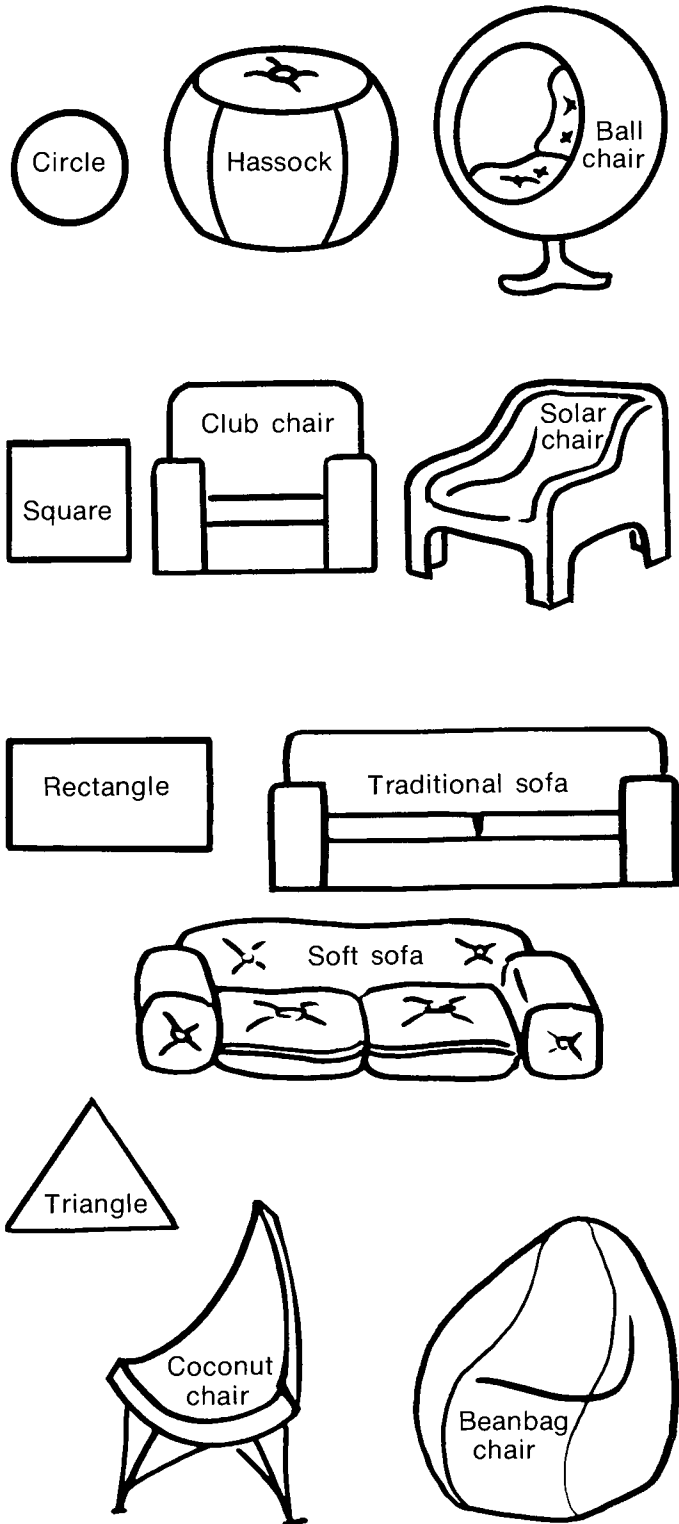
4. Can you find both a young and an old woman? 



## Shape or Form

A shape or form is created when a line comes around and meets itself. It has three dimensions. It can be seen from three or more sides.

Examples of natural shapes and forms include: toadstools, rocks, or an apple. Name others. Examples of shapes and forms found in furniture are shown below. Find other examples in your home.



## Space

Space is another element of design we cannot forget. It is the amount of room we have to move around in—whether it is out-of-doors, in our room, or in a school bus. Too little space will make us uncomfortable. It may make us feel cramped and crowded.

Look at the spaces in your home or at school. How much floor space is available? Can you walk easily or are there too many things in your way? Do the tables and shelves seem cluttered? Are there lamps, planters, or bird cages threatening your head room? Some rooms have too little space because they are filled with unnecessary items.

### Experimenting with Space

Look at the space you have in and around your home. What is the largest room in your home?

\_\_\_\_\_ Measure the room. How long is it? \_\_\_\_\_ How wide is it?

\_\_\_\_\_ Is there enough comfortable space for everyone in the family? \_\_\_\_\_

Measure how much space you think is necessary for eating comfortably at a table. Remember that all people are not the same size, and they need room to move their elbows. How much space should be allowed for each person? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have this much space at your dining table? \_\_\_\_\_

Cut a design. Measure and cut a piece of paper to fit the exact size of the design you wish to make. Fold in half, then quarters, then fold again. Cut a design while the paper is folded. Unfold and look at the "snowflake" design. How many ways can you think of to use this design idea?

- Paint it on a box lid or book cover.
- Sew fabric design on pillow top, place mats, or wall hanging.
- Glue paper design to poster board for wall decoration.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## Accessories

Accessories can add sparkle and interest to any room. They help complete or finish a room. Choose those items that reflect your personality and interests.

Collecting accessories is easy for most of us. The difficult job is to select the ones we want to display at one time. Allow enough space around objects so they can be seen and enjoyed.

Accessories are used to complement furnishings in a room. Overcrowding tables and walls with accessories often creates a cluttered look. Each piece competes with all the others to be noticed.

Select those that will do something for your room. Which pieces are of most interest to you? Will they add color and sparkle to the room? Will they add to the total mood you are trying to create in the room?

Selecting room accents requires imagination and inspiration. When in doubt, leave it out!

Practice putting various accessory items together in small displays. Use place mats, napkins, scrap fabrics, and wood as complements for the accessory items. Then look at what you have done. Your parents and 4-H leader may be able to help you with experiments in display. The more you practice, the easier it becomes.

What ideas do you have for room accessories?

Wall hangings \_\_\_\_\_

Dried plants \_\_\_\_\_

Candles \_\_\_\_\_

Books on a shelf \_\_\_\_\_

Wood carvings \_\_\_\_\_

Paintings, drawings, prints, photographs \_\_\_\_\_

Sports equipment \_\_\_\_\_

Hobby collection \_\_\_\_\_

Throw pillows \_\_\_\_\_



## ACTIVITIES

### Learning About You

Each of these sentences below relates to decorating in some way. Complete the sentences with whatever word or words you choose.

1. The room in my home that seems to be the most friendly is \_\_\_\_\_

2. When I come into my home after school, I head straight for the (room) \_\_\_\_\_

3. When I want to get comfortable, I can always relax in the (room) \_\_\_\_\_

4. Secretly, I wish I could paint my room (color) \_\_\_\_\_

5. The room that is the most efficient in our house is the \_\_\_\_\_

6. I really like the living room. It's a room where you get a feeling of \_\_\_\_\_

7. If I had \$100.00 to spend on decorating my room, I'd buy \_\_\_\_\_

8. I'd like to fill my home with \_\_\_\_\_ music.

9. When I want to be by myself, I \_\_\_\_\_

Now look at your answers. What do they tell you about your interests? Your home? Your likes and dislikes? How would you decorate a room of your own to show these things?

## THINGS TO MAKE

### Framed Fabric

This is a quick way to add color and design to a room. Printed fabric, scarves, place mats, and colorful napkins make very effective hangings.

What you need:

- 4 artist's wooden stretcher bars or strips of wood for frame.
- Fabric
- Tape measure
- Scissors
- Staple gun and staples, thumb tacks, or small nails

What to do:

1. Make frame. Push stretcher bars together to form a square frame or make own frame. Size of frame should allow 1½ to 2 inches extra fabric on all sides. (If you use a finished place mat, napkin, or scarf, simply make frame 4 inches shorter and narrower.)
2. Press fabric. Measure, mark, and cut out a piece of fabric 3 to 4 inches wider and longer than the assembled frame. Make sure the fabric design is centered as you do this.
3. Dampen fabric slightly. Place right side down on a smooth surface. Center frame on fabric.
4. Beginning at the center top, wrap fabric tightly around frame and staple, tack, or nail in place on the back. Smooth and staple center bottom in place. Then smooth and staple both center sides, pulling fabric tightly as you work. After all centers are in place, staple toward the corners of the frame.
5. Finish corners. To do this, pull fabric down from the corner point toward center of the frame. Staple (see figure 1).
6. Fold point A down, then point B. Staple in place (see figure 2). Finish the other three corners in the same manner.
7. Attach hanger. Hang on wall.

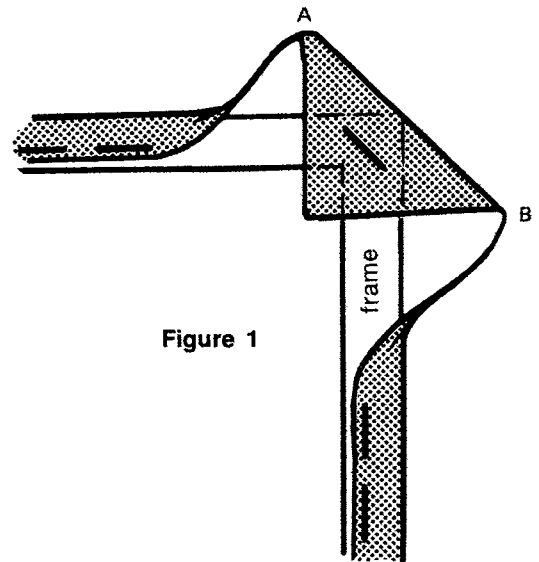


Figure 1

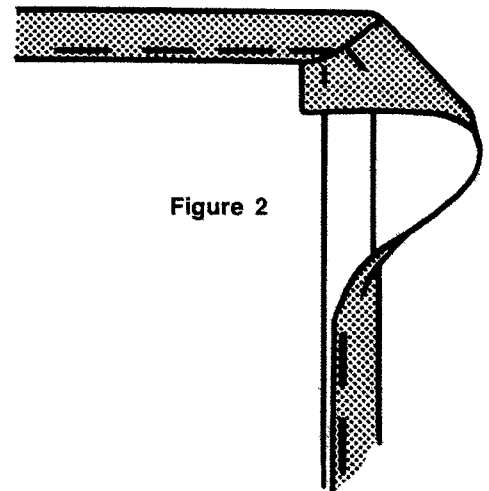
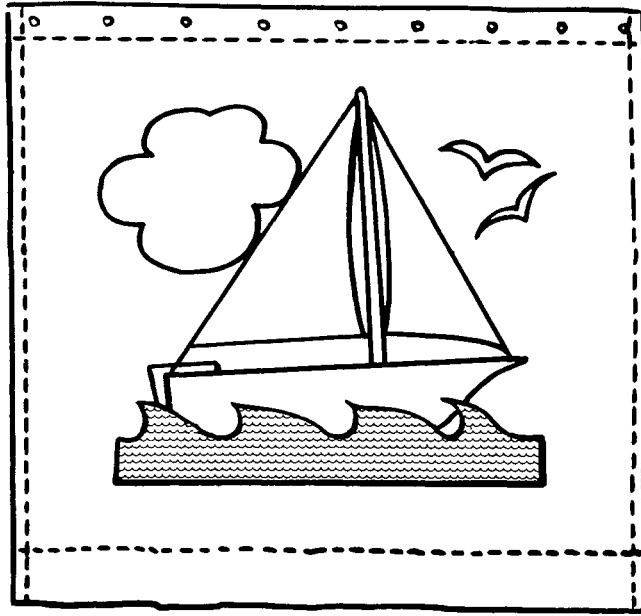


Figure 2

Ask yourself these questions:

- Is the design placed well on the frame?
- Is the fabric smoothly and firmly stretched over the frame?
- Are the corners neat and smooth?
- Does the hanging look nice in the space where you plan to hang it?



**Shower Curtain**

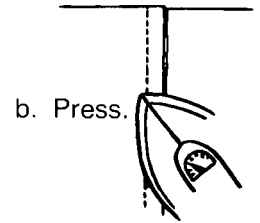
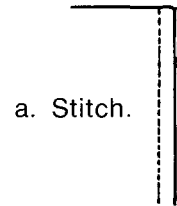
These directions are for a 72-inch square or standard tub size shower curtain. Fabric suggestions include sheer polyester or eyelet over a colored plastic liner, gingham, seersucker, nylon water-repellent fabric, and other light to mediumweight fabric. Appliqued designs, stitchery, ruffles, or ribbon trim can be used.

**What you need:**

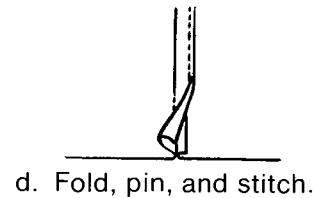
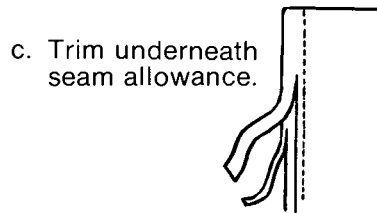
- 4½ yards fabric, 42 to 45 inches wide
- Thread to match fabric
- Tape measure
- Tailor's chalk
- Fabric shears
- Dressmaker's pins
- Grommeter and twelve large grommets
- 2 yards buckram, 3 inches wide
- Shower curtain liner
- Shower curtain hooks

**What to do:**

1. Press curtain fabric. Measure, mark with tailor's chalk, and cut into two equal lengths, each 81 inches long. With wrong sides together, join the two long sides with a flat fell seam (see figure 1). Trim excess fabric from each side to make curtain 76 inches wide by 81 inches long. The flat fell seam should run from top to bottom in the exact center.
2. Make double hems along both side edges. To do this, turn edges under 1 inch and press. Turn under 1 inch again and press. Stitch hems in place and press again.



**Figure 1**



a. Place wrong sides together and stitch a 5/8 inch seam. b. Press both seam allowances in the direction the seam is to be turned. c. Trim lower seam allowance to 1/4 inch. d. Turn upper edge under 1/4 inch and pin or baste in place. Topstitch close to the edge.

3. Make heading. First measure, mark, and cut out a strip of buckram 2½ inches wide. Measure, mark, and press top of curtain down 3 inches to form a 2½-inch hem with a ½-inch turn-under. Place buckram inside heading, wrapping raw edge of fabric around it. Stitch in place 1/8 inch from each fold line along both lengthwise edges of the buckram and press. The heading is now 2½ inches wide.
4. Make the bottom hem. Measure, mark, and turn up the bottom 6 inches to form a 3-inch hem with a 3-inch turn-under. Press, stitch in place, and press again.

5. Using a grommeter, attach grommets to the heading, matching spacing of the holes in the shower curtain liner. If no liner is used, space grommets midway between stitching lines of heading. The two end grommets should be  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches in from the side edges. The remaining grommets should be evenly spaced across the curtain with their centers  $6\frac{1}{4}$  inches apart (see figure 2).
6. Sew on applique, ribbon, or other trim if desired. Slip hooks through shower curtain and liner and hang.

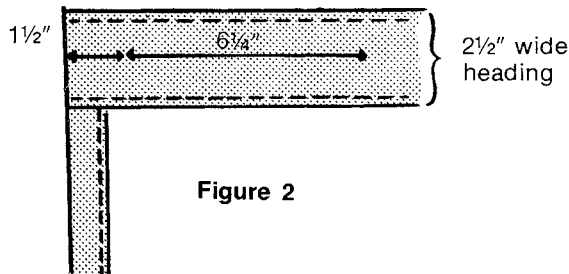


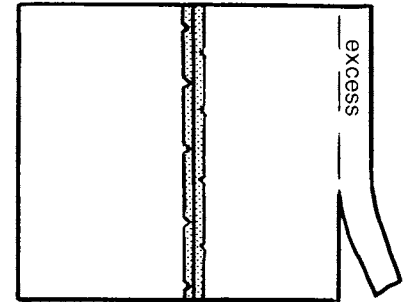
Figure 2

Ask yourself these questions:

- How do the colors and pattern look in your bathroom?
- Is the stitching straight and even?
- Is the hem even? (Place both edges together to see if the curtain is the same length at both ends.)
- Are the grommets spaced evenly?
- If a design or a trim has been added, is it neat?

Figure 1

$\frac{1}{2}$ " seam



2 times width of window plus 10"

## THINGS TO MAKE

### Curtains

What you need:

- Light to mediumweight fabric
- Tape measure
- Scissors
- Pins and tailor's chalk
- Thread to match
- Cafe curtain rod with brackets

What to do:

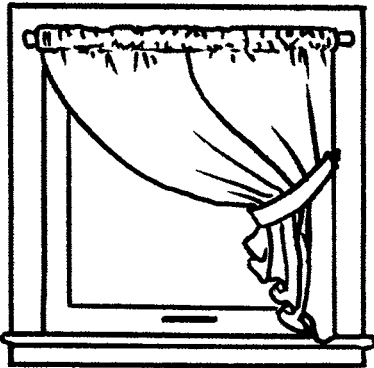
1. Mount curtain rod according to directions.
2. Press fabric. Measure, mark, and cut fabric into lengths that are 11 inches longer than finished length. (Measure from top of rod to desired finished length, then add 11 inches). Remember to cut on grain of fabric.
3. Measure length of mounted rod from end to end. Fabric width for *each panel* should be this wide plus 5 inches. (Total width of fabric for finished pair of curtains will equal twice the length of the rod.) Stitch lengths together, if necessary, to make needed width. To prevent the finished curtain from puckering at the seam lines, clip  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch into the selvages every 4 inches (see figure 1).
4. Make double hems along both side edges. To do this, turn raw edges under 1 inch and press. Turn under 1 inch again and press. Stitch  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch from the inside fold edge. Press.
5. To make the top casing, fold down the top raw edge 5 inches onto the wrong side of the fabric. Press. Measure, mark, and stitch across the curtain panel 2 inches below the fold. Turn raw edge under  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch and press. Stitch across panel again  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch from the fold line. Headings and casing can vary in size depending upon the size of the curtain rod and how deep you wish the heading to be.
6. Add trim, if desired.
7. Finish bottom hem. Measure, mark, and turn raw edge of the bottom of the panel up 3 inches. Press. Turn bottom up 3 inches again and press. Stitch across the width of the panel. Press.



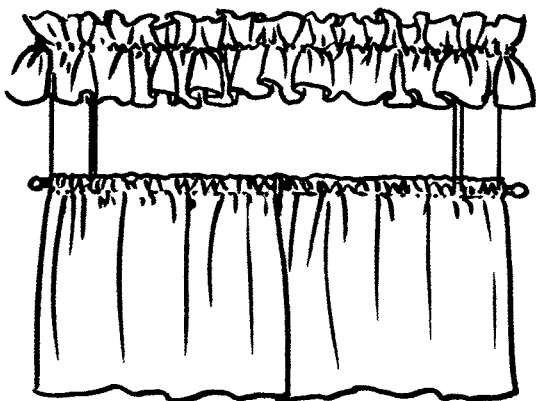
8. Slide the curtains onto the rod and place in brackets. Distribute gathers evenly across the window. Use pull-backs if desired.

### Other ideas

Two panels sewn together



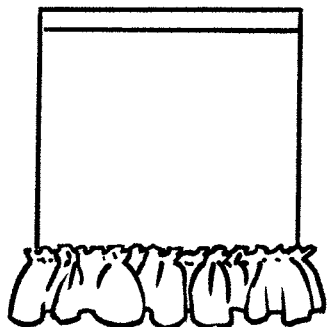
Short curtains with valance



Add a ruffle

Use tie-backs of:

- same fabric
- ribbon
- small chain

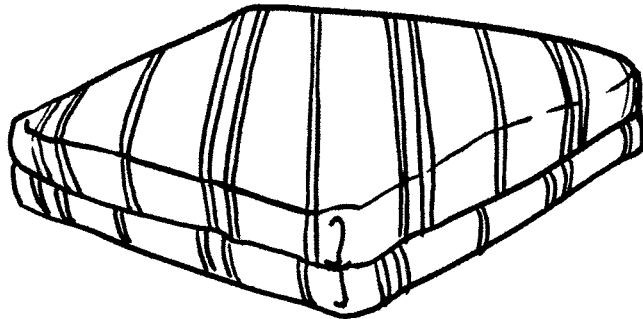


More ideas: Clip cafe rings on towels, use pillow cases (bottom hem is already finished!)

Ask yourself these questions:

- Do the curtains fit the rod and the window?
- Do the colors and the patterns look nice in the room?
- Is the stitching straight and even?
- Are the panels exactly the same size (measure both sides of each panel)?

## THINGS TO MAKE



### Turkish Corner Floor Pillow

These materials and directions are for a 30-inch square pillow.

What you need:

- 2 yards medium to heavyweight fabric, 36 inches wide
- 2 yards lining fabric, 36 inches wide (such as muslin)
- Thread to match
- Polyester fiber fill
- Tape measure
- Tailor's chalk
- Scissors
- Dressmaker's pins

What to do:

1. Make pillow lining. Press lining fabric. Measure, mark, and cut out two 31-inch squares of fabric.
2. Fold each corner of both squares of fabric as shown in figure 1. Make sure the edges of the folds touch. Pin-baste in place. Stitch folds in place across each corner as shown in figure 2.
3. Place the two fabric pieces together with right sides facing. Stitched corners must match exactly. Pin-baste sections together leaving 8-inch opening in the middle of one side. Stitch, using a 1/2-inch seam. Trim excess fabric at corners. Finish seam edges. Press seams open.
4. Turn pillow lining right side out. Stuff with polyester fiber fill. Slip-stitch opening closed.
5. Sew outer pillow covering in same manner except insert zipper in place of opening. Plan to have the zipper opening long enough so that filled pillow lining can easily slip in and out when cover needs cleaning.

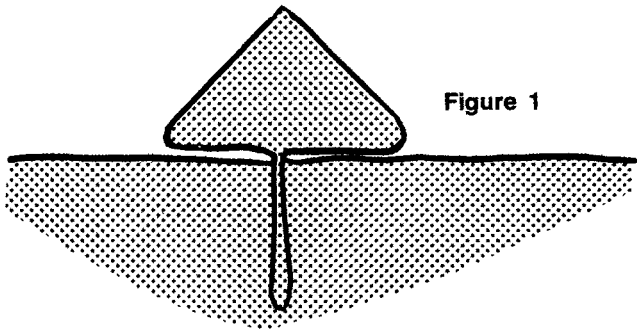


Figure 1

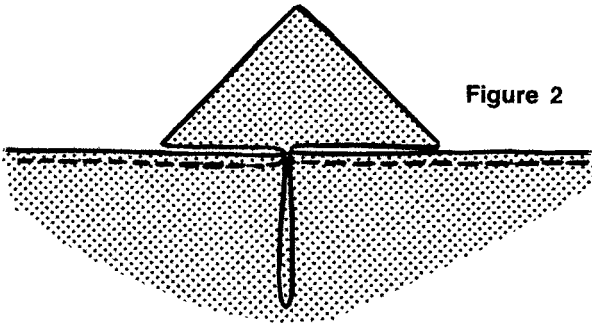
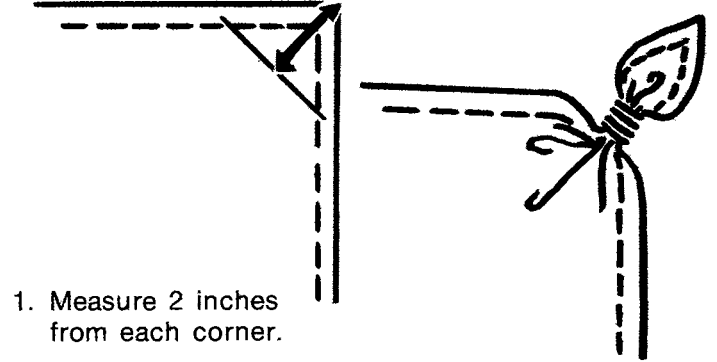


Figure 2

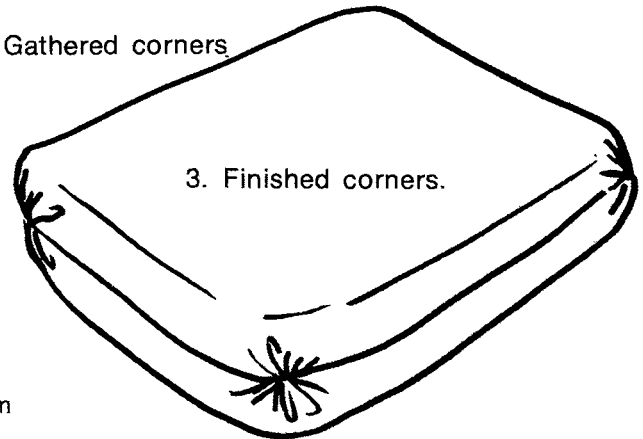
Other ideas:



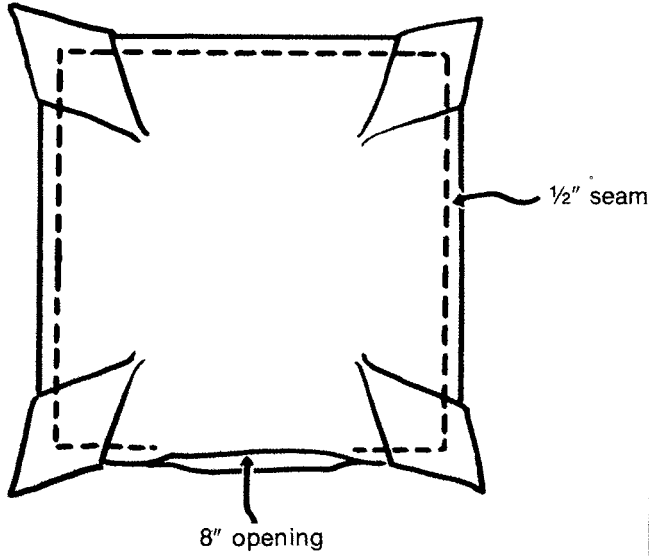
1. Measure 2 inches from each corner.

2. Tie with dental floss.

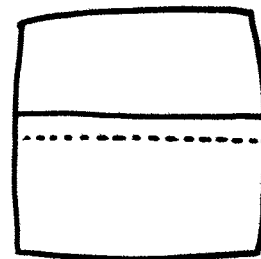
Gathered corners



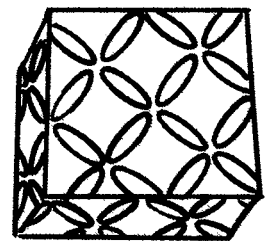
3. Finished corners.



8" opening



Lap-backed pillow  
(no zipper needed)



Boxed cushion

Ask yourself these questions:

- Do the colors and patterns fit the room where the pillow is used?
- Is the stitching straight and even?
- Are the pillows comfortable to touch and use?
- How will you clean your pillow?
- Is the closing convenient and inconspicuous?

## Home Tools

Most people need a few tools in their homes. A hammer is needed for hanging pictures, a saw for cutting wood, and a screwdriver for hanging a towel rack or curtain rod. It is important to know how to use and care for these tools properly.

- Learn how to use household tools by making something for your home. A shelf could hold books in your room. A flower box could be used either inside or outside your home. Talk about your plans with your leader, parents, or other adult. What materials will you use? How will you fit the pieces together? What kind of finish will you give it? Where will you use it?
- Refinish a piece of furniture for your home. What tools and supplies do you need? Does it need any repair work before you apply a new finish? Chair legs sometimes need to be reglued, or cracks need fixing. What kind of finish will you give it? Where will you use it? EB 332 Finishing and Refinishing Wood Furniture, and 4-H project 4411, Shop Bulletin, Unit I—Adventures in Woodworking, can give more help.
- Learn how to care for all of the tools you use. Keep metal tools clean and free of rust. Hang up tools if possible instead of dumping them in a drawer or on a workbench. This makes them easy to find and protects them from damage. Take good care of your paint brushes. Be sure to remove all paint and varnish after each use. Then wrap the brush in paper and store flat or hang by the handle.

## MY PLAN FOR REFINISHING WOOD

Article to be refinished \_\_\_\_\_

1. The present condition.
2. Why I want to change it.
3. What I want it to look like and why.

It's nice to be able to compare the before and after of your work. If possible, take photographs of your project before you start and after you have completed work on it.

After your project is completed, answer the following questions:

1. Did the wood article look like you had originally planned? If not, why not?
2. What ideas has this experience given you for further refinishing work and study of woods?

Steps in refinishing	Time spent	Materials used	Problems	Results
Remove old finish				
Minor repairs needed				
Sanding to smooth surface				
Stain and seal, if desired				
Fill if needed				
Apply selected finish				
Polish and wax				

3. If you took before and after pictures of your project, mount them here.

Before

After

4. Are you satisfied with the results? Why or why not?

# Using Natural Resources

Natural resources—things like oil, wood, water, coal, sunlight, and air—are important to your everyday life. They are used in many ways. They:

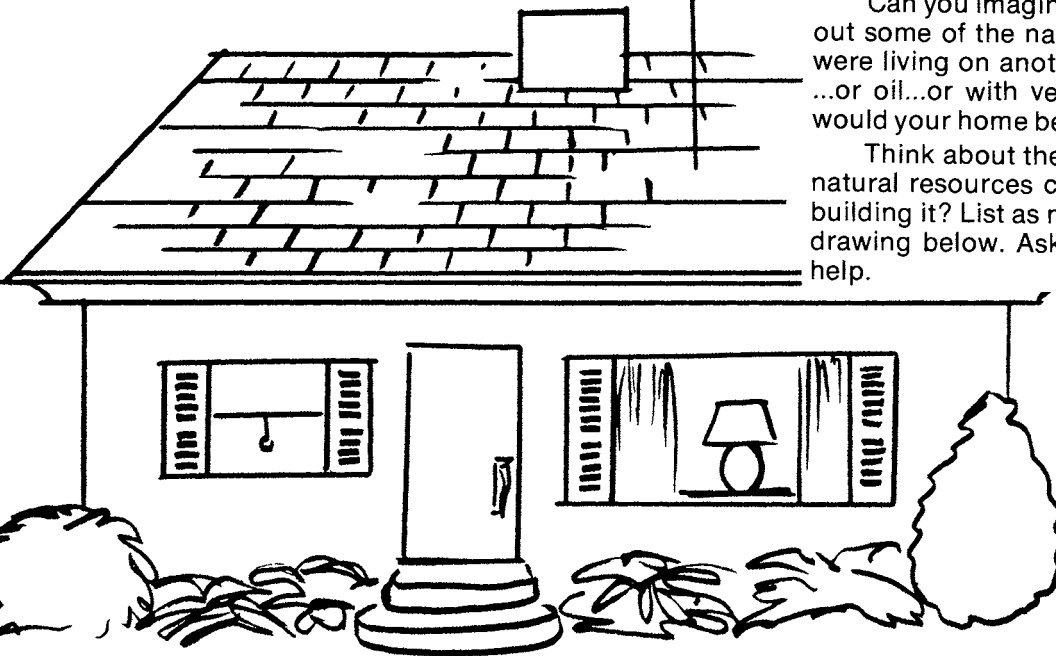
- Make power to give you light, heat, and other household comforts.
- Provide transportation so you can get to school, the grocery store, music lessons, and football games.
- Are used for building your home and for making things for your home.
- Make your life pleasant (fresh air to breathe, water for boating and fishing, wooded areas for shade and hiking.)
- Give you life (air, clean water, food).

## What Turns Them On?

Many natural resources are used to provide energy and power. Place an "X" in each column or columns to show what type of power is needed. Remember that some things can operate on more than one kind of energy. If you think of other power sources not listed, write them in the "other" column.

Can you imagine what your life would be like without some of the natural resources? Imagine that you were living on another planet without wood or plants ...or oil...or with very small amounts of water. What would your home be like? Where would it be located?

Think about the home you now live in. How many natural resources can you think of that were used in building it? List as many of them as you can inside the drawing below. Ask your 4-H leader and parents for help.



Items	Electric battery	Gas	Electric Current	Coal	Oil	Other
Stove						
Refrigerator						
Car						
Clock						
Toothbrush						
Television						
Furnace						
Lamp						
Radio						
Kitchen mixer						

## How Much Energy Do You Need?

Consider how much energy you use in a day. You may be surprised at the number of appliances and conveniences you've come to take for granted.

List all of the electrical and gas appliances and equipment in your home in the drawing on page 39. Decide whether each of them is a necessity or a luxury, whether it is essential to your life or whether you could do without it. Place an "N" next to those you consider necessities and "L" next to those you think are luxuries. (The top room is for equipment and appliances not associated with the other rooms such as lawn mower, hedge clippers, milking machine, etc.)

What do you think?

- What new appliances have you or your family purchased during the last few years?
- Do any of the appliances in your home go unused? Why?
- What appliances do we have today that weren't available 30 years ago?
- If you could design an appliance that has not been invented yet, what would it be? Why?

**Try doing without some of these appliances for a day . . . for a week. You might decide to give up the television, your radio, stereo, the hair dryer, or even your bedroom light. How does it change your life?**

## Energy

Did you know . . .

- The largest industrial consumer of electric power is the metal industry, and its largest expenditure of energy goes to producing aluminum? But recycling aluminum reduces consumption about 75 percent. What are some ways aluminum is used in our homes?
- It takes electricity to produce synthetic or artificial fibers (nylon, polyester, and others), and process natural fibers? The production of plastics also uses petroleum and electricity. What does this mean to you and your family?
- Many items in our society are designed to wear out within a certain time period? Producing items to replace them uses up energy. Junking them creates other problems. How do you feel about this? Can industry be persuaded to make things that won't wear out? If so, how? If not, why not?

**Draw a household product that won't wear out**

List some ways you and your family can help conserve natural resources. Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Turn TV and radio off when no one is listening.
- Do not let water run while brushing your teeth or washing dishes.
- Take good care of the things you have.
- Repair instead of replace clothing, appliances, and household items.

**Other ideas:**

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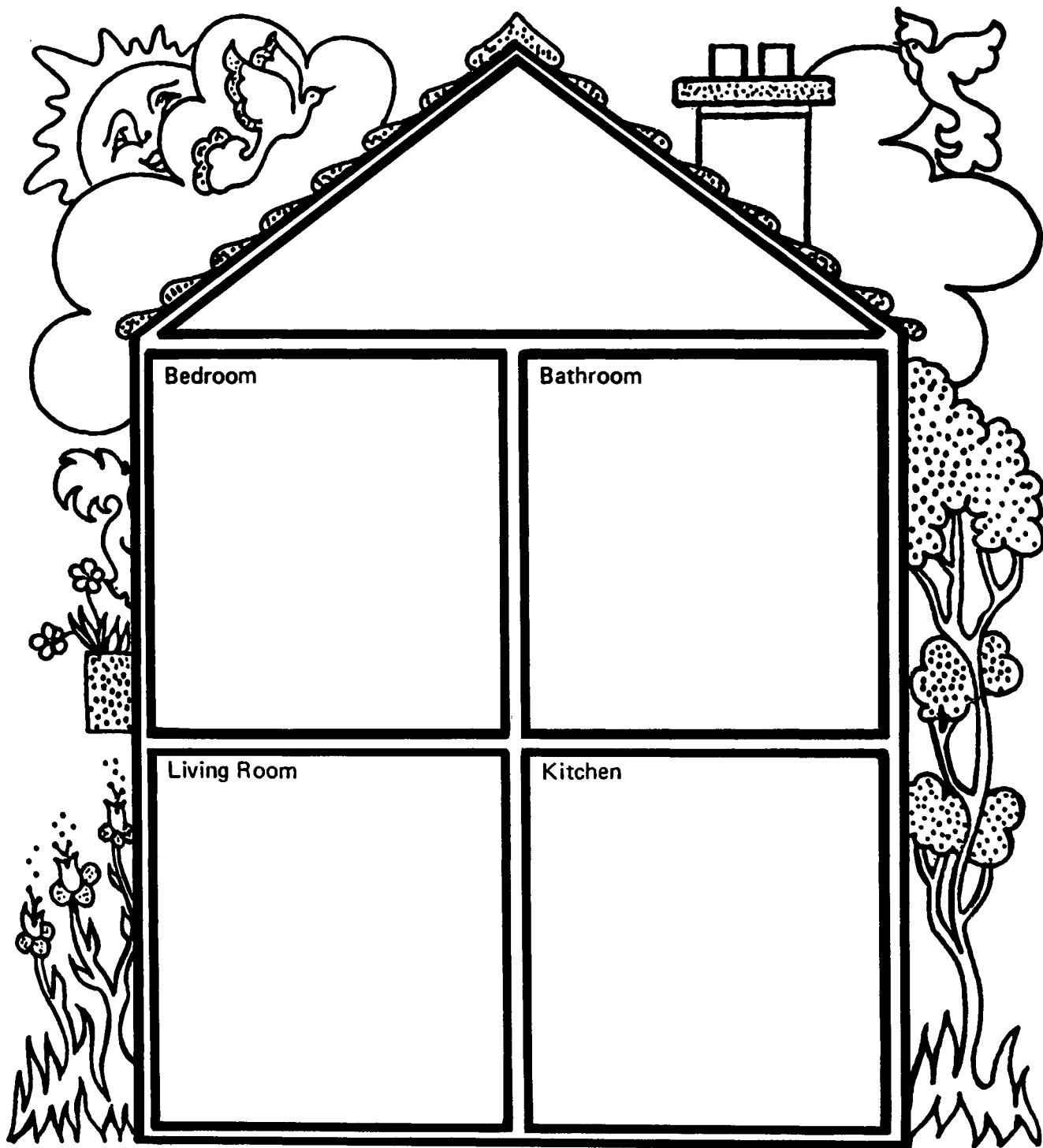
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Bedroom

Bathroom

Living Room

Kitchen



# Share Your Knowledge

40

Now that you have learned how to do many things around your home, why not share with others? Here are some ideas for some ways you might like to let others know what you have learned.

- Give an educational presentation at your club meeting.
- Give a talk at your class at school.
- Plan a Youth-in-Action demonstration.
- Present a "how to" demonstration to a club or organization in your community.
- Plan an information booth for the fair. Have your information files, books, and references available to answer questions on cleaning metals and common household surfaces (tile, walls, carpet, sinks, etc.), refinishing wood, and other things. This might be a club project with several members taking their turns at the booth.
- Volunteer to be a 4-H host or hostess in the exhibit area during the fair. It's fun to help fair-goers find a member's exhibit and answer questions such as "Is this furniture refinished?" and "Did 4-H members make all of these things?"
- Help a relative or a neighbor clean her/his house (inside or outside) . . . just because they're your friends or because they may need help.
- For a club project, have a rent-a-4-H'er day to help raise money for special club projects. Decide what service each of you would like to volunteer (wash windows, rake leaves, clean cupboards, clean silverware, shovel snow from sidewalks, help clean the garage or basement). Auction off these services to the highest bidder at a chamber of commerce, church group, garden club, or other group meeting.
- Take a project to the fair. Include before and after pictures if possible to help others understand what you have done.

## Other ways to share what you have learned:

- Have several or all members of your club write a leaflet on various ways to wash windows, clean metals, and other household information. Share this information with new families moving into your community, newlyweds, and people who are setting up their first homes away from home. Check with Welcome Wagon or newcomer community organizations, churches, and schools. Can you think of others who would like such information? (Be sure to include information about your 4-H club, too, so they will know who wrote the information for them.)
- Learn how to do something from a grandparent or older adult. Examples include quilting, embroidery, tatting, wood carving, rosemaking, flower arranging, stamp or coin collecting. While you are with them, ask them questions about their homes and their lives when they were your age. Then tell them about what you're doing at school or a favorite interest of yours.
- Can you think of other ways to share what you have learned?

## More ideas:

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