CHALLENGE #1

CREATE: TRASH FLOWERS IN THE CITY

Our landfills are filling up faster and faster and pollution levels are getting higher and higher. Designing projects from a global perspective including low-energy manufacturing, renewable sources and utilizing recyclable and reusable materials is critical to decrease our pollution levels for a cleaner, healthier planet. (from Trash to Treasure! on www.teachengineering.org)

Every item that is repurposed is another item that does not contribute to the overflowing of landfills! So let's create something wonderful from the materials you would otherwise discard!

CHALLENGE DETAILS:
Your Trash Flower needs to:
● Be able to stand on its own
● Be created entirely of items that would otherwise be thrown away
● Include at least 4 nameable plant parts (roots, stem, leaf, petal, seeds, fruit, stamen, pistil, etc.)

HOW TO GET STARTED:

Collect as many clean recyclables from around your house as you can.

Try not to be picky at this point! Look for all the random things that you have available to you!

MATERIAL HIGHLIGHT: One of our garden educators used a deck of playing cards that had missing cards!

MAKE A PLAN:

Draw out what materials you think would best fit to make different parts of your Trash Flower.

Think about the type of material that you will need to create each part of your Trash Flower.

● What characteristics would the stem need to stand tall?
● What type or size of materials would be best for making the base of the flower?
• What is the purpose of each part of the plant? How can your material choices reflect that purpose?

**START BUILDING:**

Lay things out before glueing or taping them in place - so you are less likely to make a mistake and need to start over.

As an extra challenge, think about how you might be able to connect things without glue or tape! The straws in the photo were stacked without adhesive. How might that work?

**TROUBLESHOOTING:**

Sometimes the materials don’t work quite how you want them to, so you have to troubleshoot or come up with a solution so that they can work how you want.

What did you have to troubleshoot to make your Trash Flower come to life?

**PHOTOGRAPH:**

Take a photo of your final product! We want to see it!