

## **CuriOdyssey At-Home Science Activity “T-shirt Tote”**

By Educator Cat

### **Gather this:**

- Cotton T-shirt (Don't have a t-shirt? No problem! Use a pillow case!)
- Scissors
- Pen
- Optional: mold for tracing

### **Then do this:**

1. Lay the T-shirt on a flat surface and trace the outline of the mold over the neck line.
2. Cut off the neck. Cut through both layers of fabric at the same time.
3. Cut off the sleeves. Remember to cut through both layers of fabric at the same time.
4. Cut 1-inch-wide, 4-inch-long strips of fringe into the bottom of the T-shirt, or long enough for you to tie 4 double knots. Cut through both layers of fabric at the same time.
5. If there is a graphic or logo on the T-shirt that you want visible on the bag, turn the shirt inside-out at this point. If you want to hide a logo, leave the shirt right-side-out.
6. Flip up one layer of the fringe so you can see the corresponding pair below.
7. Starting at the edge, tie 2 over-hand knots in the fringe. Pull tight so the fabric stretches a bit. Continue for all of the fringe pairs.
8. Starting at the edge again, tie the two adjacent knots together by tying another double knot using the fringe pair to the left and one strip of the fringe pair to the right. Remember to pull tight.
9. Now turn the T-shirt inside-out and your tote is ready to use!

### **Ask this:**

- Don't have a cotton T-shirt or pillow? Try a T-shirt made of a different fabric, or another tube-shaped cloth.



- Don't want any holes in the bottom of your tote? Hand-stitch with a needle and thread or use a sewing machine.
- Want to make the bag but don't want to keep it? Personalize it and gift it to family and friends.

### What is Happening?

Repurpose and upcycle the materials you have at home to make a purse, grocery bag, shopping bag, beach bag, carry-all! There are a finite amount of resources on the planet so the more we can rethink, refuse, reduce, reuse, refurbish, repair, repurpose, and recycle, the better for everyone including wildlife and the environment!



### What this teaches:

Skills: Creativity, scissors, knots

Themes: Eco-friendly, upcycling

