**Imaginary Oasis**

This project used recyclable materials to create the scenery of a fantasy oasis. However, there is one limitation: all materials have to be contained in one container. Here, the materials I used are: a plastic container for kiwi fruit, a piece of white foam meat tray, two pieces of paper with printed Japanese patterns, a piece of cardboard from Walmart.com, a piece of brown paper, a sprinkle of onion & herb seasoning blend, scissors and school glue.

The steps were as follows:

* Prepare the patterned paper you would like to use as the background
* Cut it and adhere it to the container
* Cut the blue cardboard and stuck it to the bottom of the container
* Cut a small piece of the form, make a slim V shape cut
* Adhere the edges of the V to make the form sit up like a small boat or beach chair
* Cut the green paper to thin stripes, attach them to top and bottom of the container to make grass and vines
* Cut the brown paper to make the edge of a desert and adhere it to the bottom
* Sprinkle the seasoning to make sand
* Attach the top and bottom of the containers together

**The process:**

It went pretty smoothly generally. I particularly enjoyed scavenging the materials, handling them for a bit and thinking about what they can be used for. Cutting and gluing can be tedious, but I think of it as a relaxing activity that can clear my mind. While doing the project, I frequently stopped and checked the object to see if everything fitted.

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| *A progress picture, I was trying to see how the grass and vines fit together* |

**Challenges, setbacks, and solutions:**

It was generally fun for me, with lots of trials and errors. My limited collection of recyclables also added some challenges to this project. For example, I wanted to add some red to make an accent color, but I couldn’t find the appropriate materials. I was stuck and changed my design a couple times halfway through the making process. Here are two major challenges that I faced:

1. While adhering the flower patterned paper to the inner side of the container, the edge of the paper doesn’t fit with the bulging corners, so I have to make some smaller cuts to fold the paper in order to fit in.
2. Originally, I was trying to make flower petals floating on the water, but then I found it was way too big, so I decided to make it symbolize a fancy boat or chair.

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| *Challenge 1: Adhering the background paper* | *Challenge 2: Changing the purpose of the foam* |

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| *Finished project* | |