

BUILDING A CAN CRUSHER

This activity gives students the chance to learn firsthand how to prepare cans for recycling. The can crusher makes recycling fun and can be built at home or in school.

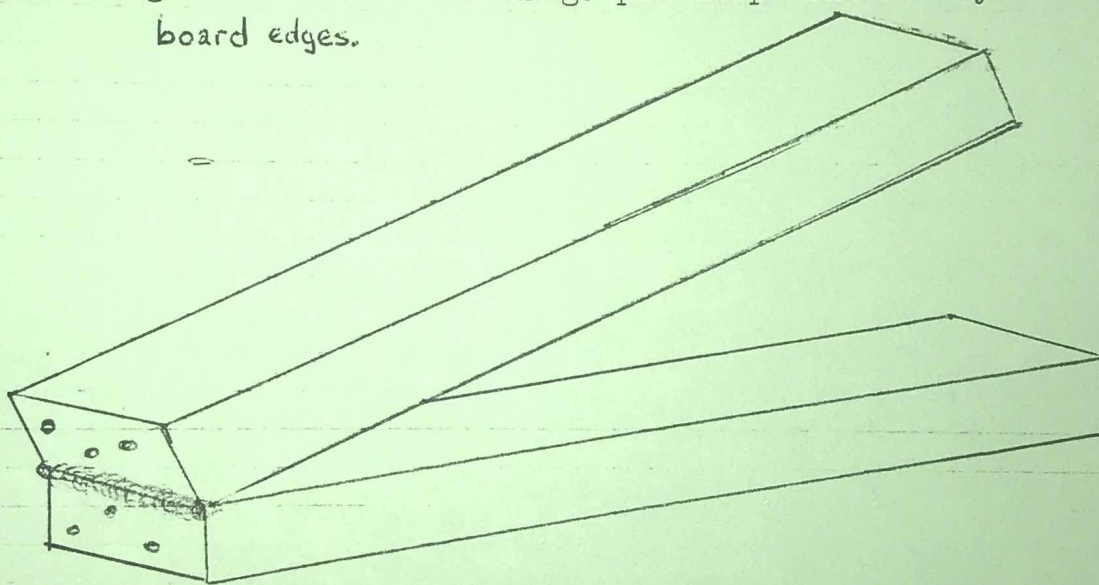
Materials:

- Clean tin cans, as many as you can get
- Can opener
- 4 feet of "two by four" lumber
- 6 "16 penny" nails
- Heavy duty door hinge
- Hammer

Approximate time to teach: 30 - 45 minutes

Procedure:

1. Position each hinge plate on the boards as shown in the drawings. Note that the hinge-pin loops extend beyond the board edges.



2. Hammer the nails through the holes in the hinge plates, securing the hinge tightly to the board.
3. Ask the children what needs to be done with the cans before they're crushed. They should make sure the cans are clean, both ends are off, and the labels are removed.
4. Crush

Helpful Hints:

Your crusher will only be as strong as the hinge you use -- the huskier, the better. Have lots of cans on hand and make several crushers if you have enough materials.