



# Shoe maker challenge



My name is Wafula and I live in Western Kenya.

Five boys from my class are sick, it started with them having sore feet and now they cannot walk. I don't think they will be returning to school for a while.

Lots of people in my village have the same problem. Most of us do not have shoes to wear so our feet often get cut, this makes it easy for sand fleas to get inside. If they are not taken out the pain gets worse and worse.

I don't want to be like those boys in my class so I have been trying to make myself some shoes out of things that I find in the street. Will you help me?

## Your challenge.....

**To design and make a wearable pair of shoes from recycled and found materials.**

## Things to think about.....

What style of shoes will you make?

How will the shoes stay on?

How will you make your shoes comfortable to wear?

What found and recycled materials do you think will be good for shoe making?



# Shoe maker challenge



## Make a plan .....

Draw your design in the space below. This will be your plan to follow when you make your shoes.



## .....Test your ideas

Gather your materials together and using your plan as a guide, start making your shoes.

Now, test them out. **Are the shoes wearable?**

Is there anything you need to change to improve your shoes?

## Share your ideas .....

Present your shoes to the rest of the group. Explain the reasons for your design, what worked well and what didn't. Tell them about any changes you needed to make.

## Discuss .....



If you were to do this activity again what would you do differently?  
How could you make your shoes even better?

What do you think could be done to help people around the world who do not have shoes to wear?  
Do you think this problem could be solved?







# Shoe maker

## facilitators notes



### Background information .....

There are 1.5 billion people worldwide who do not have shoes to wear (300 million of these are children). Many children who do not have shoes are unable to attend school and are very likely to suffer from disease and illness due to the poor condition of their feet. 'Jiggers', the infection caused by sand fleas burrowing into the skin affects over 2.6 million people living in Western Kenya.

### About the activity .....

Children will go through the process of designing and making a pair of shoes from recycled and found materials which will provide them with many opportunities for creative thinking and problem solving. They will need to think about the merits of using a variety of materials and the practicality of their design. They will also need to evaluate their work and present their creation to others.

### Materials .....

**Shoe making materials** - a range of recycled and found items, for example you could include plastic bags, bottles, boxes, newspaper, polystyrene trays, cardboard tubes, lids, twigs, bark, shells and leaves.

**Sticking materials** - these could include string, glue, thread and plastic needles, glue, sticky tape and plasticine.

**Scissors**

**Pencils**

### Advance preparations .....

Collect a variety of materials together that can be potentially used for shoe making. It is important that the children have a choice of what to use so, it may take some time to gather a good mix of items.

If you are going to show any of the supporting images ensure you have a suitable device to do so or print them out before starting the activity.

### Instructions .....

Start by reading the introductory story to the children.

Ask if any of them have ever walked around barefoot when outside- maybe in the garden or park or at the beach? Ask them how it felt.

Ask them to imagine walking in the street or getting on a bus without shoes on, would it be safe? What might happen to their feet?

Read out the challenge and tell them that they are going to design and make a pair of shoes that they (or one of their group) can wear.

Give out the worksheets, materials and equipment to the children.

Encourage the children to talk about how they are going to design their shoes. What style will they be? how will their shoes stay on?

Support the children to make their shoes allowing them to learn from their errors and make changes as necessary.

Encourage the children to present their shoes to the rest of the group, this could be in the form of a fashion show. Prompt them to talk about their choice of design and any changes they needed to make.

Discuss with the children what they would do differently if they were to repeat the activity, how could they make their shoes even better?

Talk about what could be done to help those around the world who do not have shoes to wear.



Feet that have been infected with Jiggers disease.





# Shoe maker resources

image source- l'art en eaux troubles exposition, Paris



Shoes made from plastic bottles and palm leaves

