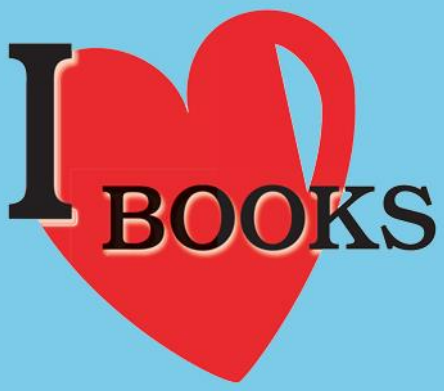



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an extract from

# 23 Ways to be an Eco Hero

Written by

**Isabel Thomas**

Illustrated by

**Chris Andrews**

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# Jeans Bag



**Reusing old clothes is a great way to be an eco hero. If you have a sewing machine handy, you can turn an old pillowcase, duvet or curtains into stylish bags for your books or sports kit. For special occasions, transform an old pair of jeans into a slouchy shoulder bag.**

## you will need

- pair of old trousers or jeans (with belt loops)
- 2 old scarves or long scraps of fabric
- needle, thread and old button (optional)

### tools

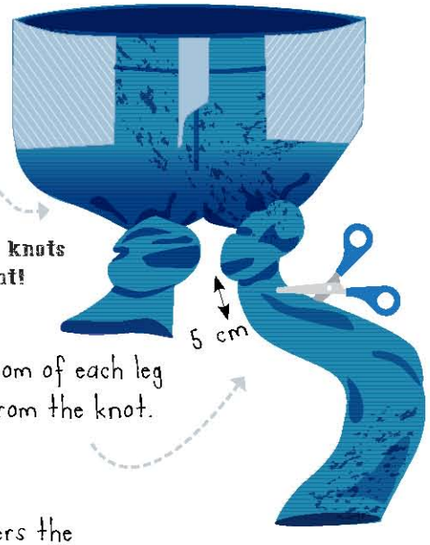
- sharp fabric scissors



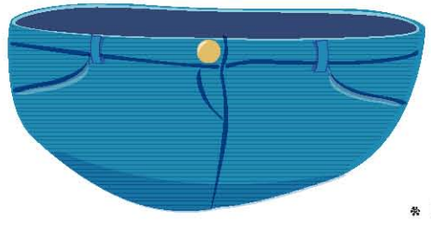

**1.** Turn the jeans or trousers inside-out.

**2.** Tie a large knot in each leg, as close to the top of the leg as possible.

*** Pull the knots really tight!**




**3.** Trim the bottom of each leg off, about 5 cm from the knot.



**4.** Turn the trousers the right way round again – you've made the shell of your bag.

*** Really push out the corners to give it shape.**

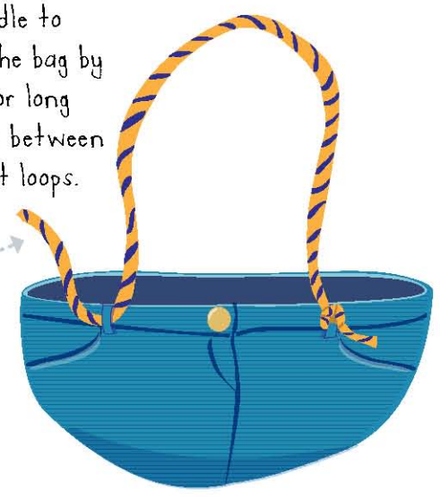
*** Denim jeans are great for this project as they'll make a tough, long-lasting bag.**



## Change Champion

Cotton is the fibre used to make almost half of our clothes, including denim. It is farmed on huge plantations, gobbling land, energy and water. More resources are used up taking the cotton to factories, turning it into clothes and shipping them to stores. Old clothes can be recycled – even grubby, worn-out textiles can be turned into stuffing for cushions and sofas. But reusing clothes is better for the environment. When you grow out of clothes, be an eco hero by donating them to friends or family, charity shops or clothing banks – or find clever ways to turn them into something new, rather than hitting the shops. Remember to swap and shop second-hand yourself.

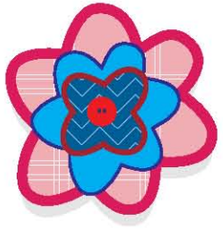
**5.** Add a handle to the front of the bag by tying a scarf or long scrap of fabric between two of the belt loops.



**6.** Flip the bag over, and repeat step 5 on the back to add a second strap.

**7.** Your bag is ready to use! Add badges, brooches or key rings for extra sparkle, or make a matching flower decoration with the scraps of leftover fabric.

## More Ideas



- To make a fabric flower, cut three flower shapes in different sizes. Layer and sew together with a contrasting button at the centre. Ten loops of thread should do the trick.



