

# Reuse Scavenger Hunt

## Accompanying Class Activities for ZWAPPO!

This activity can be done in your classroom, your home, or anywhere you decide to be a Zero Waste Ambassador!

### Materials:

- A ruler or measuring tape
- A blank piece of paper
- Something to write with
- Your imagination!

### Background:

DECONSTRUCTION means to carefully take apart structures so the pieces can be saved and reused in future projects (instead of sent to the landfill). Home ReSource is a building materials reuse store, which means we take these pieces and other used building materials that would otherwise be thrown away as donations. Then, we sell them to people who want to use them to build or fix things like houses, compost bins, benches, shelves, tables, and anything else they can imagine!

In this activity, you'll imagine how things in your home or classroom could be deconstructed and the pieces used to build a chicken coop!

Let's say a Home ReSource customer wants to make a chicken coop, and you want to donate items to Home ReSource that you think they could use. A chicken coop is a small house for chickens, usually made of wood and metal. There are lots of ways to design a chicken coop -- check out a few different options in the picture below:



**Directions:**

- 1. Find materials for the project.** Look around the room for things that could be DECONSTRUCTED (taken apart) and used to build the chicken coop. For example: What are you sitting on? Are there wooden, plastic, or metal pieces? Are there screws or bolts? Write down any materials you can find that could be used for the coop.
- 2. Measure the pieces.** If you were actually going to deconstruct these materials and use them to build a chicken coop, you would need to know the size of the pieces so you could plan out the project! Use the measuring tape to measure the length and width of each material you want to use for the coop and write it down.
- 3. Help the customer design the coop.** Think about the materials on your list and design a chicken coop they could be used in. Draw a picture of the coop and circle where your deconstructed materials would go in the project.
- 4. Calculate how much material you saved from the landfill!** Did you know that the average chicken coop weighs around 500 pounds? Remember that the average Montanan throws away about 7 pounds of trash every day. How many days' worth of trash will we be diverting from the landfill if we used only deconstructed and reused materials for our 500 pound chicken coop?
- 5. Find other materials in the room.** What else can you find in the room? Try to find one thing that is reusable, one thing that is recyclable, one thing that is compostable, and one thing that is designed for the dump. Write down the items you found and where you think they came from (what raw materials were they made of? Where do you think those materials were extracted from the earth? How did the item get to you?). Then, think about what is going to happen to those items after you are done with them. How can we avoid them ending up in landfill? Could they be reused, repaired, repurposed, or donated? Could we request that they be reduced or redesigned?

**Wrap-up**

Share your work with a partner or present to the class. Explain the materials you chose to deconstruct and how they could be used in the chicken coop. Then, describe the additional materials you wrote about in step 5.

**We want to see your work! We invite you to snap a picture of your work and email it to [learn@homeresource.org](mailto:learn@homeresource.org). Your project might be featured on the **ZWAP! website!****