



BRAIDED BRACELETS

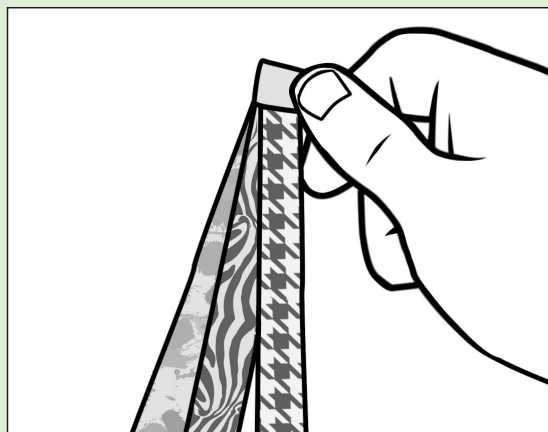
Materials: Duck Tape® rolls, scissors, found and recycled items

- 1** Introduce students to the history of cloth braiding in colonial America as a method of recycling old fabric and pieces of clothing. Explain to them that settlers would reuse scraps of cloth and excess material by braiding them into decorative strips and practical items such as rugs and clothing. Discuss the idea of upcycling, or using recycled materials to create new items of value.
- 2** Have students research, describe, and discuss what examples of cloth braiding they can find today. What are the colors, shapes, patterns, and various components that stand out to them?
- 3** Tell students they will use the various colors and patterns of Duck Tape® as a durable medium to create strips of “fabric” to be handwoven into a bag. Use the instructions to the right to guide each student.



HOW-TO

1. Make the Ribbon—Fold a long strip of tape in thirds lengthwise to create a strong Duck Tape® ribbon. Create three unique ribbons of the same length.



2. Attach and Secure—Connect the ends of three strands of Duck Tape® ribbon with more tape. Then secure that end to the work surface with another piece of tape.

3. Braid—Using a traditional pattern, braid the three pieces of ribbon together integrating “found” items (e.g., beads, shells, etc.) where possible.



4. Measure, Trim, and Secure—When the braid is finished, secure the ends of the strips with more tape to hold the braid. Measure the wrist and trim the bracelet to fit. Secure ends together with more tape.