



## Shrinkydinks Plastic Sun Catcher

### Materials:

Piece of polystyrene plastic (Look for #6 recycle code and/or the Letters PS)

- Clear plastic salad box (clamshell style)
- Clear portion of a Lid from a Dannon Yogurt container
- Commercial, shrinkable polystyrene – frosted

Scissors

Colored permanent markers

Colored pencils

Hot pad

Toaster oven or conventional oven

Brown paper bag

Cookie sheet or metal tray

Board or piece of cardboard

### Procedure:

1. Cut a circle of polystyrene from the clam shell container.
2. Decorate the circle with a picture or with colors (like stained glass).
3. Punch a hole in the edge of the polystyrene.
4. Preheat oven to 325 degrees F.
5. Lay a sheet of brown paper from a grocery bag on a cookie sheet or metal tray and place the students' plastic figures on the paper.
6. Use an oven mitt to place the tray in the oven and heat the plastic figures until they stop shrinking.
7. Use an oven mitt to remove the tray from the oven (Pieces of polystyrene will typically first curl and then lie flat as they shrink. The plastic might need to be flattened while still warm with a smooth item such as a board or cardboard.
8. After the shrunken plastic items have cooled, remove them from the cookie sheet. Tie a ribbon through the hole to hang.