My Goal:
To make fire starters to use in our bonfire pit.

Process to complete my goal:
We have a bonfire pit in our backyard which we use a lot and it is a lot of work to gather all the supplies to start the fire. We would have to find newspaper, our lighter or matches, twigs, leaves and then hope we could get it started. For Christmas my parents gave me a flint. We tried to start leaves, paper, and twigs on fire and then we tried cotton balls because I saw that on a “survival show” once and it worked great!

My mom remembered an article she read once about recycling and it had a way to make fire starters using reusable stuff. So we gathered the materials: lint, cotton balls, and old candle, paper egg cartons, and a tin can to melt the candle. Our next step was to filled the dryer lint into the egg carton and set it aside. We then cut up the candle in smaller pieces so it would melt faster. We found using a hammer and screwdriver was the easiest way to break up the candle. We melted the wax in 2 small tin cans in a pan of boiling water; we had to be very careful not to get it too hot or to burn ourselves. Once the wax was melted we poured it over the lint filled egg cartons and put a cotton ball on top of each section.

We experimented in which would light better with the flint: lint or a cotton ball and we felt the cotton ball was easier to light rather than the lint so we decided to add the cotton ball to the top for easier lighting.

After letting them harden we tried one out, and it worked great! On Mother’s Day we had friends over and had a hot dog roast at our bonfire pit and I tried my fire starters. With only a few swipes of my flint and 1 fire starter we had an awesome fire going. No more looking around for the supplies, I keep the fire starters in the outhouse by the fire pit and my flint is always handy in the drawer.
Things I learned:
   - Fire safety, I am not allowed to use these or my flint without a parent approved adult around.
   - I learned cotton balls are easier to start than lint.
   - Wax is flammable and we had to be careful not to get it too hot.
   - It was fun using reusable items to make something useful.
   - These fire starters work great!

Next year's idea:
   I want to continue to work on outdoor activities.

**Mom typed this report as I told her what to print**
Collecting the lint and packing it in the egg cartons
I tried a knife, not very successful

A saw wasn’t the answer either

A hammer and screwdriver worked the best
Melting and Pouring the wax
Using my flint to start the flame

Ahh
Success
Successful project