



✂ WONDERVILLE ACTIVITY

MAKE YOUR OWN PAPER

Whole trees, wood scraps from sawmills and recycled paper are most often used to make paper in Canada. In this activity you will learn how to make recycled paper from newspaper.

What You Need

- 2 newspaper pages, torn into 5 cm squares
- a blender
- water
- a bucket
- a square pan at least 8 cm deep
- window screen to fit inside the pan
- a rolling pin
- a measuring cup
- 2 tea towels

What To Do

1. Soak the scraps of paper in a bucket of hot water for 30 minutes.
2. Scoop a handful of the soaked paper into the blender* and mix until it's mushy. Pour the mixture into a measuring cup. Repeat this step until all of the soaked paper has been mixed in the blender.
3. Pour 3 cm of water into the pan. Place the screen in the pan and pour one cup of the paper pulp onto the screen.
4. Using your fingers, spread the pulp evenly over the screen.
5. Lift the screen and let the water drain off.
6. Lay the pulp-covered screen facedown on a tea towel. Lift the screen, leaving the paper pulp on the cloth.
7. Cover the paper pulp with the second tea towel. Use a rolling pin to flatten and press out the excess moisture in the pulp. Let the pulp dry for at least 24 hours. Your paper will then be ready to use.

Colour Your Paper

You can add leaves or vegetable scraps (carrot or beet peels, for example) to the mixture at step two. This will add colour to your paper. Or you can add dye to the mixture, also at step two.

*Safety First

Make sure you have an adult with you who can safely operate the blender.

Did You Know?

Paper can be created from anything that contains cellulose – the main component of the cell walls of plants. All plants contain cellulose, so almost all plant matter can be used to make paper pulp. Cotton, flax and hemp are examples of plants that are used to make paper.

Websites

- Earth 911 Kids <http://www.earth911.org/master.asp?s=kids&a=kids/kids.asp>
- Waste Reduction Week – Canada <http://www.wrwcanda.com>
- Paper University <http://www.tappi.org/paperu/welcome.htm>
- Earth Care <http://www.earthcarecanada.com/default.asp>

