

Papermaking



Grade Level: 1-Adult

Time Needed: 1- 1 ½ hours (depends on class size)

Supplies: dishpans, towels, screens, blender, shredded paper, construction paper scraps, tarp (optional)

Location: Classroom with access to sink and electrical outlets, large work surface

Objective: Students will learn how paper is recycled and then make their own recycled paper.

Introduction: Since we are always pressed for time, we usually only spend 5 minutes talking about how papermaking is done on a large scale at the mills. The students then take turns making their own homemade recycled paper from shredded office paper and construction paper scraps.

Papermaking: Place shredded paper from the local recycling center in the blender with water. Blend it until it looks like applesauce. Put 3-4 blender-fulls of pulp along with some water in a dishpan. More pulp = thicker paper. Use screens to collect the pulp (our screens are made from old window screens). The next several steps involve squeezing out as much water as possible.

Extensions: While students are waiting for their turn, they have the opportunity to look through paper made at past programs and various papermaking books. This is a very introductory program. Advanced papermaking can involve some pretty cool things! Some of the books show how you can incorporate spruce needles and pressed plants/flowers into your paper, how to make paper from plants in your yard and making lampshades from your own paper.

Books in the Papermaking Tub:

Step-by Step Papermaking, by David Watson

Paper: From Books to Boxes, by Beth Dvergsten Stevens

Papermaking With Plants: Creative Recipes and Projects Using Herbs, Flowers, Grasses, and Leaves, by Helen Hiebert

Every Ton of Recycled Paper Saves:

17 Trees

4100 kwh of Energy

7000 Gallons of Water

Reduces Air Pollution by 60 Pounds

Bremer County Recycling Program
(319) 882-4742