

Make Your Own Paper (Grades 3-5)

Objective: Students will help save paper by making their own out of recycled material.

California State Standards:

Science: 5th: 2f

Visual & Performing Arts: K: 2.2. 1st: 1.2. 2nd: 1.3. 3rd: 4.1. 4th: 2.8. 5th: 2.4.

Background: Trees are chopped down each year to make paper products, but they also serve an important role in the environment by making oxygen through the process of photosynthesis. Let's save a watershed tree and make new paper by using recycled materials.

Materials:

- Blender or food processor
- Iron
- Wire hangers
- Pair of nylons
- 2 inch square pieces of used paper (Newspaper, etc.)
- White glue
- Water
- Strainer or screen (optional)
- Food coloring (optional)
- Container (over 4 inches deep)

Procedure:

1. Bend your wire hanger to make a rectangular frame for the paper that you will create.
Note: Each piece of paper you make will need a frame.
2. Prepare for this activity by cutting one leg off of a pair of nylons. Stretch one leg from the nylons over the hanger frame. This will be your frame.
3. Place a handful of torn up pieces of used paper and a small amount of water into a blender/food processor. Note: You can add food coloring, colored pieces of paper, or leaves to make different colors and textures of paper. Blend these ingredients until the paper disappears. Then leave the blender on for 2 minutes.
4. Add 2 tablespoons of white glue and all of the paper pulp generated from the blender. Mix it using your hands.
5. Place the frame in the bottom of the container and place pulp on it. Smooth the pulp over the frame and then slowly lift the frame up; this should take 20 seconds. Make sure that the nylon frame is tightly secured and flat against the paper. You can keep making paper until all of the pulp is strained out of the container, but you must mix up the container before you create another piece of paper.
6. Let the water drain from the frame for 60 seconds.
7. Put the frames out in the sun to dry and when they are completely dry (no dampness at all exists), then gently peel off the paper.
8. Set the iron to the hottest setting and use it to steam out your paper.



Further Investigation:

1. Draw or paint conservation themed artwork using this sheet of paper.
2. Compose 3D pieces of art out of these recycled pieces of paper.
3. Write a conservation themed story using this sheet of paper.