

NO PAPER DAY

- Grade Level: 7-8
- Subjects: Social Studies, Language Arts
- Suggested Time: 2 class periods, plus the No Paper Day



Students research the effects of paper use, identify ways to conserve paper, and sponsor a No Paper Day.

Materials

Computers with internet access, word processing programs, and PowerPoint (optional), poster boards and markers, dry erase boards with erasers and refillable markers (optional), classroom laptop set (optional), a few sheets of scrap paper for signs, and paper recycling bins.

National Standards

Social Studies:

- Environment and society.
- Roles of the citizen.

Language Arts:

- Evaluating data.
- Developing research skills.
- Communication skills.
- Communication strategies.

Ohio 2010 Standards

Social Studies:

- Individuals, governments, and businesses must analyze costs and benefits when making economic decisions. (7)
- Choices made by individuals, businesses and governments have both present and future consequences. (8)

Language Arts:

- Include multimedia components, and visual displays in presentations to clarify claims and findings and emphasize salient points. (7)
- Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively. (7, 8)
- Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions with diverse partners on grade level topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly. (7, 8)

- Integrate multimedia and visual displays into presentations to clarify information, strengthen claims and evidence, and add interest. (8)

Objectives

The student will be able to:

- Research current paper use in the United States and its impact on the environment.
- Identify ways to reduce paper use.
- Create a PowerPoint presentation or poster to inform others about paper use, environmental effects, and paper saving strategies.
- Plan and advertise a school-wide No Paper Day, including a paper recycling drive.
- Create a printer checklist to inform others how to reduce paper used for printing.

Teacher Preparation

- Gain support from the building principal and other staff to hold a No Paper Day.
- Set a date for the No Paper Day.

Introduction

- Ask students to brainstorm on the board all the ways that they use paper at school and at home.
- Ask students to list ways to reduce paper use.
- Inform students that they will be sponsoring a No Paper Day for the whole school, which will combine reducing and recycling strategies.

Activities

- Students should research the following questions, using the web sites below. Display these questions in a paper-free way, such as the board, overhead projector, or PowerPoint slide.
- How much paper does the United States use every year? How does this compare with other countries?
 - How does paper use affect the environment?
 - Deforestation
 - Chemical process of producing paper
 - Carbon dioxide emissions
 - Impact on landfills
- Helpful web sites:
 - http://www.tappi.org/paperu/all_about_paper/faq.htm (Go to Paper Industry Statistics)
 - <http://156.98.19.245/paper/index.html>
 - <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2009/feb/26/toilet-roll-america>
- As a class, discuss findings and paper-saving strategies. Help students to consider the following tips for a No Paper Day:

- Use no new paper, only scrap paper (already been put in the recycle bin).
- Encourage students to bring lunches in reusable, non-paper lunch bags.
- Art teachers should use non-paper mediums, preferably re-usable mediums such as canvas or clay.
- Use paper alternatives such as the chalkboard, laptops (students may email teachers work), and individual whiteboards with refillable dry-erase markers to do classroom work (see <http://www.amazon.com/Pentel-Handy-line-Retractable-Refillable-assorted/> and <http://www.whiteboardsetc.com/LapBoards.htm> for more information).
- Unplug copiers and printers for the day, and create signs from scrap paper to explain the reason.
- Identify exceptions for the No Paper Day (such as toilet paper, tissues, and cafeteria napkins).
- Plan the No Paper Day campaign. Break students into small groups and assign one activity to each group. Possible activities include:
 - Create posters advertising No Paper Day, including a paper recycling drive. Encourage students to bring lunches in a reusable lunch bag, and to bring paper from home for recycling collection.
 - Create a PowerPoint presentation about paper use, environmental impact, and paper-saving strategies. Students should present in front of the class, their other classes, and if possible, at a staff meeting.
 - Write a letter using a computer word processing program, announcing and explaining No Paper Day to staff members. Email the letter to the staff listserv and ask staff to advertise No Paper Day to their students.
 - Write a checklist of printing tips to save paper, using Microsoft Word. Email this list to staff members and suggest posting a copy near printers in offices, the library, and computer labs. See the web sites above for ideas.
 - Write a PA announcement advertising No Paper Day, including the paper recycling drive. Students from the group should take turns reading the announcement on different days leading up to the No Paper Day. Also, create signs to post on printer and copiers explaining why they are turned off during No Paper Day.
- Hold the No Paper Day, including the paper recycling drive. Students should record the amount of paper collected for recycling and create a follow-up announcement to update and congratulate the student body for its paper-saving efforts.

Extensions

- Students may write articles before and after No Paper Day for the school or local newspaper.
- Students may create a presentation or proposal containing ideas for more permanent paper saving strategies. Arrange for students to email or present their ideas to staff members.
- The questions in the first activity are just an overview of information about paper use and environmental impact. Students may conduct more in-depth research and write a persuasive essay about reducing paper use.
- Students may share their research and printer checklists with their parents or other adults for use in offices and other places of employment.

- Students may create a plan for saving paper at home and present it to their families. They may hold a No Paper Day at home by turning off printers, using cloth napkins, purchasing recycled toilet paper, using only scrap paper for writing, etc.

Closing

- Review the lesson and congratulate students on the success of No Paper Day.
- Ask students to identify paper-saving practices they could continue on a more permanent basis. Write the plan on the board and ask students to sign their names as a pledge to continue saving paper. Encourage students to be a spokesperson for ongoing paper-saving practices in their other classes.