

## RECYCLE YOUR OWN PAPER

- Grade Level: 4-6
- Subjects: Science, Social Studies, Art
- Suggested Time: 2 hours

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***Make paper out of used paper scraps.***

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### Materials

Scrap paper, 1 or 2 wood frames (can use old picture frames), window screening for 1 frame (slightly larger than frame), staples, rubber or plastic tub (to immerse frame), blender, felt or wool fabric (slightly larger than frame), sponge, optional: fresh or dried flowers, herbs, seeds, foil, wrapping paper, glitter, thread, dryer lint, rolling pin.

### National Standards

#### Science:

- Properties and changes of properties in matter.
- Population and ecosystems.
- Populations, resources, and environments.
- Abilities of technological design.

#### Social Studies:

- Environment and society.
- Roles of the citizen.
- Scarcity.

### Ohio 2010 Standards

#### Science:

- The total amount of matter is conserved when it undergoes a change. (4)
- All matter is made up of small particles called atoms. (6).

#### Social Studies:

- People have modified the environment since prehistoric times. There are both positive and negative consequences for modifying the environment in Ohio and the United States. (4)
- Variations among physical environments influence human activities. Human activities also influence the physical environment. (5, 6)
- The choices people make have both present and future consequences (5, 6).

## Objectives

The student will be able to:

- Explain why recycling paper is important.
- Collect paper for recycling.
- Make their own recycled paper.
- List ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle paper.

## Teacher Preparation

- Make a frame by covering the wooden frame with the window screening, then stapling it to the frame.
- Read the instructions at the following web site:  
<http://www.kidsgardening.org/node/11978>

### Before the lesson (3-7 days):

- Tell the students they will learn how to recycle their own paper. Show samples of recycled paper to help students see how creative they can be with the project.
- Ask students to collect paper to recycle. Most or all of the paper should be scraps or used paper. After all, using new paper isn't very efficient recycling. The exception may be special colors or types of paper they want to include for an artistic touch.
- If age appropriate, go over the materials section of the instructions with students so they know what types of paper to collect. Also go over possible "add-ins" with them (see web site or optional materials above).
- If desired, the teacher may collect and provide some recycled paper and/or add-ins. However, collecting paper is a good exercise for the students to learn what can be recycled. Encourage students to check other classrooms' recycling bins for paper, and to recycle at home and in their classroom.

## Introduction

- Ask students where paper comes from.
- Ask students the effects of cutting down trees to make paper (less oxygen, more carbon dioxide, animal habitats, beauty, shade, etc.).
- Ask what can be done to conserve (or save) trees (plant more trees when they are cut down, use both sides of paper, use scrap paper, recycle paper).

## Activities

- Follow the instructions for making recycled paper:  
<http://www.kidsgardening.org/node/11978>
- Allow students to show their finished product with the class, explaining any artistic touches they added.

- Ask students why it is important to recycle paper.

### Extensions

- Ask students to write a letter on recycled paper encouraging the rest of the school or their families to recycle. Include reasons why to recycle, such as the impact on the environment.
- Make some of the paper with live seeds in it. Put the paper in a sunny window, add a little water, and watch it sprout.
- Students may research the process used by recycling companies to recycle paper.
- Discuss the fact that all matter is made up of small particles called atoms. What happens to the atoms when paper is recycled?

### Closing

After reviewing the lesson, ask students to list ways they can reduce, reuse, and recycle paper.