

# Papermaking



**Grade Level:** 1-12

**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 dip right in to 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:** We place shredded paper from the local recycling center in the blender with water. Blend it until it looks like applesauce. We place 3-4 blender fulls of pulp along with some water in a dishpan. More pulp = thicker paper. We then use our screens (made from old window screens) to collect the pulp. 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

*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