

Make Recycled Paper

Making new paper from used paper is an exercise in recycling and art.

Section: All
Time: 2 hours
Where: Home, Den,

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



PLAN

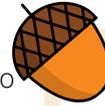
This activity has a few stages before you end up with new paper, ready for art, card-making or scrap-booking. Plan it out, particularly if the scouts are going to make the frame, before starting.

Materials

Scrap paper, a blender, a mesh-covered frame and a second sheet of mesh, and a basin that the frame will fit into.

Timing

Making the paper itself can take up to an hour, and then it needs to be left to dry (anything from overnight up to three days)



In a nutshell...

1. Tear up scraps of waste paper, soak them and pulp them in a blender.
2. Pour them out onto a screen to form a sheet of paper.
3. Let it dry and hey presto! - recycled paper.

DO

Start by preparing your frame. You can buy or make a "mould and deckle" - check online for instructions. Basically, it is a sheet of mesh stretched over a frame and attached to it, with a few additions if you want to get straight edges and a more professional finish.

Tear up all of the scrap paper, using all kinds of used office paper, newspaper or envelopes, but avoid glossy paper as this won't work so well. Tear it up into stamp-sized pieces and soak them in water. If you have time, let them soak overnight. Place the water and paper into a blender and blitz until it is a watery pulp with no pieces of paper visible.

Sit your frame down into your basin, which is half-full of water, and pour your pulp onto the frame. Move around the pulp so that it is evenly covering the mesh, raising and lowering it in the water to help with this process.

Lift out the frame, place the other sheet of mesh over the paper and press it down with a sponge to force the water out of the pulp. Turn it over onto the loose piece of mesh and sit it out on a flat towel to dry. It can take a few days to dry, especially if the paper is quite thick. When it dries, peel it off the mesh and it is ready to use.



Follow-on

Experiment with making different colours and textures in the paper. Do a craft evening using the recycled paper that the scouts made.

REVIEW

Check with the scouts what they thought of being able to make paper themselves. Can they think of ways to make it different, such as using different colours of paper, maybe leaving some small pieces of paper whole, or adding in paint, seeds or glitter? Get them to think about all of the paper which ends up going in bins and maybe encourage them to see if this could go for recycling instead.



SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production

SDG 12 seeks to substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse. Through making recycled paper, scouts can try out a practical way to turn something which would otherwise be thrown out, back into something useful.



Find out more!

Visit - www.betterworld.ie

Contact us - sustainability@scouts.ie

Produced by the Scouting Ireland Sustainable Scouting Team