



SUPERSTAR



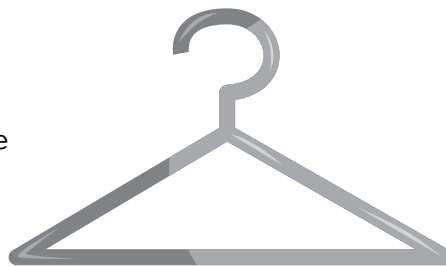
Recycle Reuse

Activity Card

Paper was first created in China by Ts'ai Lun in A.D. 105. He mixed hemp, mulberry bark, and rags with water, mashed them, pressed out the liquid and hung it to dry. This humble idea has allowed people around the world to communicate ideas, share news and create works of art. But paper production has a major impact on the environment. It's time to take action! You can help by recycling.

Your challenge

Find out more about recycling paper and make your own paper by recycling waste paper.



Discuss

Why do you think it is better to recycle paper than to throw it in waste tips?

If you look at different types of paper with a magnifying glass or microscope, what can you see?

What kinds of paper do you think you could recycle?

Getting started

Tear old paper into small pieces, put in a bowl, cover with warm water.

Mash or whisk until it is like thick porridge.

Make a frame from a coat hanger and old tights.

Dip your frame into the liquid and make sure it is evenly covered with pulp. Let the water drip back into the bowl.

Put the coat hanger down on absorbent paper or cloth. Leave to dry.

To speed up drying, put another piece of paper or cloth on the top of the pulp and roll firmly with a bottle or rolling pin. Ironing it will help too. Ask an adult to help.

Your paper needs to be left to dry for at least a day before you try to write on it.

Test your ideas

Make a plain piece first, then try different ideas.

You could add colouring, seeds, glitter or other tiny items to your paper as you mix it.

You could put leaves, buttons, pieces of string or other interesting things on top of your paper to make patterns.

Share your ideas

Look at the different papers that have been made. How will you change what you do next time? You could make a display of the finished paper.

Extra things to do

How strong is your special paper?

Find out how much paper you use each day.

Find out more about how paper is recycled.

