



## Homeschool Learning Network

### Week 12 Science: Making Paper (Grades 6-8)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

#### Introduction:

Americans use a tremendous amount of paper. We have notebook paper for school, newspapers that we read, textbooks and pleasure books, wrapping paper, packaging paper for products that we buy in the store. You make contact with paper products all throughout your day.

Fifty percent of the solid waste that we produce is paper. Why not try to save some of those trees? Why not try to cut down on the pollution caused by processing paper in an industrial setting? In this activity you will make your own paper. You can use it to write on or maybe wrap a gift in later!

#### Activity: Making Paper

##### Materials:

- Old newspaper and recycled paper around your house
- Large pan
- Water
- Stirrer
- Rolling pin
- Electric blender
- Wire screen large enough to cover the pan (available at hardware store)
- Cornstarch
- Wax paper

##### Procedure:

1. Tear several pages of recycled paper into small pieces and place in the pan.
2. Add water to cover and soak for 10 minutes.
3. Mix 1/4 cup of water with 1/8-cup cornstarch and stir.
4. Pour off the excess water from the paper.
5. Place paper and cornstarch mixture in the blender and cover with the lid.
6. Run the blender on high for about 3 minutes.
7. Place the wire screen over the pan and pour the blended mixture through the screen.
8. Use your hands and spread out the mixture on the screen.
9. Cover with wax paper and flatten with the rolling pin.
10. Carefully remove the wax paper and let the paper dry.
11. When dry, you can peel the paper off!



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#### Questions:

1. Describe the texture and color of the paper.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Was the paper easy to write on?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What are the advantages of recycling paper at home?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. What are the disadvantages?



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#### **ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS:**

1. The paper will probably be rough and the colors will be inconsistent.
2. Since the paper is recycled in such a crude manner, it will not compare to writing on notebook paper, which most students are used to.
3. Advantages: Help the environment, save money, learn something new!
4. Disadvantages: The quality of paper is not as nice. It takes a great deal of time to make the paper.