PENUIS THE EARTH

BE WISE WITH SUPPLIES



April is Earth Month and what better way to celebrate than learning how you can be wise with supplies!

Paper-making is a creative way to reduce waste and reuse old materials—plus it's fun! In the spirit of Earth Month, please consider not printing out this activity sheet.

MAKE YOUR OWN PAPER

Instructions:

- l. For this activity you will need scrap paper, a blender, nylon stockings and a wire hanger OR an old window screen OR cheesecloth/mesh fabric, a colander or a bowl, and old towels or rags.
- 2. First, find scrap paper around your house. This can be old copy paper, paper from a notebook you don't need any more, newspapers or magazines you have already read, or opened envelopes—anything that would otherwise be put in the recycling bin. Next, tear your paper into little pieces.
- 3. Fill your blender halfway with your paper scraps and cover with water. With the help of an adult, blend the paper and water until you have a soupy mixture—you can continue to add water in order to get the right consistency. If you don't have a blender, just rip up your paper as small as you can, mix with water, and mash with your hands. Your paper will just be a little less smooth.
- 4. Next, pull the bottom of your wire hanger so it creates a square metal frame and slip the nylon stocking over the hanger, this is your screen! As an alternative, you can use cheesecloth or a window screen if you have it. Place a colander or bowl in your sink and place your screen over the bowl.
- 5. Pour the pulp mixture in an even layer over the screen and let it sit for at least 30 minutes.
- 6. After 30 minutes or more, take a towel and press it gently onto the pulp. Then, carefully flip the towel and paper onto a flat surface. Continue to press dry towels into the paper then let it sit until completely dry. (You can lay it in the sun or use a hairdryer to speed up the process!)
- 7. Once it is dry, have fun using your paper! You can write a letter, draw a picture, or save it for later!