ACTIVITY Paper Making

Preparation: 15 minutes  
Activity: 20 minutes

Materials Required:

- Shredded Paper
- Plastic bin to soak shredded paper in
- Blender
- Towel pieces (approx. 10x10 inch) (1 per student)
- Sponges (1 per 2 students)
- Frames with metal mesh (or chicken wire) (1 per student)
- Three 11x17 inch laminated sheet (for storing and drying new paper)
- Smaller Tupperware to distribute paper pulp
- Optional:
  - Cookie cutters
  - Dried seeds
  - Water-activated bleeding tissue

For more resources and downloadable Green Team materials, check out the Recycling Champions website, www.grownyc.org/RCP
Instructions:

1. Soak shredded paper in big plastic bin for at least 3-4 hours before activity
   i. If there isn’t enough time, soak in hot water for at least 20 minutes
2. Blend wet paper in blender until it turns into pulp (should take less than 45 seconds)
3. Distribute pulp to students in individual Tupperware
4. Place mesh frame on towel
5. Optional: If you want to use a cookie cutter, place the desired shape on top of the mesh
6. Put a fistful of paper pulp on the mesh screens/cookie cutter and press down to release moisture
7. Ensure that the layer of the pulp on the mesh screen is as thin as possible (less than 1cm)
8. Press Sponges down on pulp to take out even more moisture
9. Carefully take the homemade paper off the screens and onto the laminated sheets
10. Optional: If you want to add seeds, you can put a few in now
11. Optional: If you want to add some color to your paper, you can use water-activated bleeding paper to decorate
12. Dry homemade paper on laminated sheets for at least 2 days

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