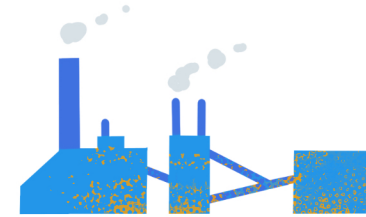


# LIFE CYCLE OF PAPER



1. Trees are cut down into logs and transported to a mill.

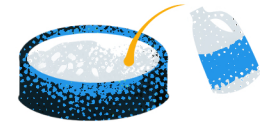


2. The logs are then debarked and chipped into tiny pieces.



3. Then the small chips are treated with chemicals until they form a pulp.

4. The treated pulp is bleached for cleaning and brightening.



5. Then the pulp is placed onto a screen to allow water to drain away.

6. When the fibers in the pulp are joined, the paper is placed into a heated roller for drying and flattening.



7. Large sheets are rolled up and sent to machines that will cut the paper into different sizes.

8. The paper is then packaged and transported around the world.



9. Paper is then used in a variety of ways! Can you think of ways that you use paper?



LANDFILL

\*\* Releases harmful gases!



RECYCLED

\*\* Saves trees, energy & reduces pollution!



10. Depending on what choices you make, paper either ends up in a landfill or it is recycled!

# MAKE YOUR OWN PAPER!

Here is what you'll need:



\* Your screen can be made out of an old pair of panty hose, wire screening, or plastic mesh stretched over an old picture frame.

**Step 1.** Collect used recyclable, non-glossy papers from around your home. Tear, cut, or shred papers into small pieces. Soak the small pieces of paper in hot water for up to an hour.

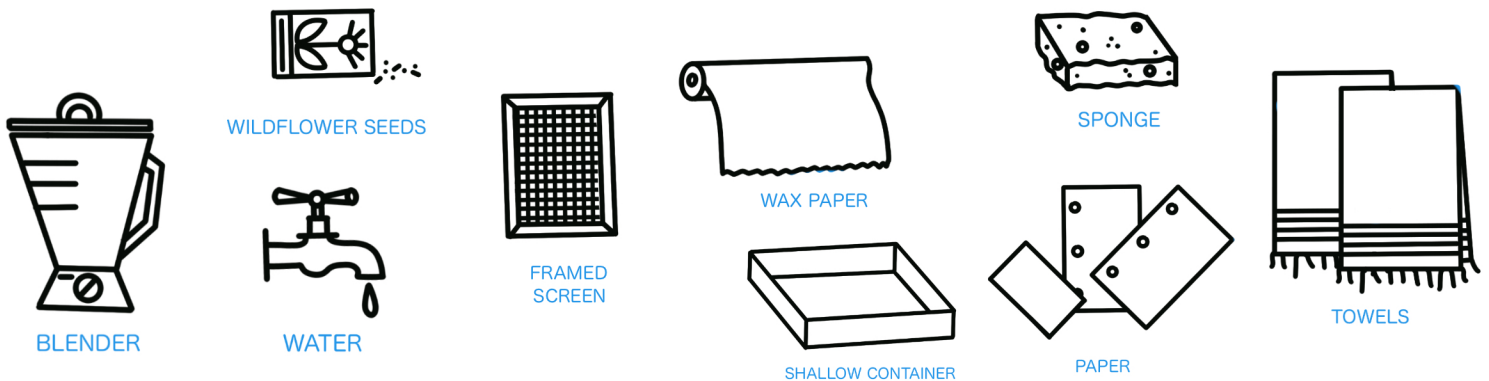
**Step 2.** Next, add the mixture of paper and water into a blender. Then add a small amount of warm water. Blend slowly for about 30 seconds to form a mixture of soupy pulp.

**Step 3.** Add in a small amount of wildflower seeds! (Optional: You can also add food coloring for a bit of color and/or a small amount of vinegar to lighten the pulp.)

**Step 4.** Pour pulp mixture into a shallow container slightly larger than your screen. Then slowly add in a few cups of water. Mix well.

**Step 5.** Slip your framed screen into the pulp mixture at an angle. Slowly lift up by shaking the screen from side to side to allow the pulp to settle evenly over the screen. Lift the screen up and out of the mixture to allow excess water to drain.

# MAKE YOUR OWN PAPER!



**Step 6.** Place the screen over a towel to allow more water to drain out. Sprinkle a few more seeds and gently pat down into the pulp.

**Step 7.** Next, place a piece of wax paper over the screen and press firmly to remove any extra water. Slowly flip the screen with the wax paper side down over the towel. Using a sponge, continue removing extra water.

**Step 8.** Flip the screen back over, right side up. Carefully remove the wax paper. Slowly pull the pulp away from the screen. (You may have to experiment with this part. Try adding more pulp on the screen if the fibers did not stick together or if the paper tears, you can return pulp to container and start again.)

**Step 9.** Transfer your paper onto a flat surface to dry overnight. Add a heavy weight (like a dictionary) on top to help flatten the paper.

**Step 10.** Use your handmade recycled paper to write a letter to someone sharing what you have learned about recycling. Your recipient can plant the paper under a thin layer of soil, watering daily until the seeds sprout.