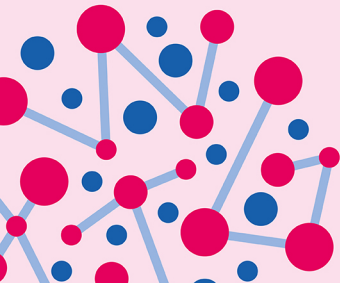




# Making recycled paper

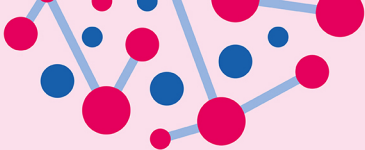
At-home science activity



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## You will need:

- 1 sheet's worth of shredded used paper (newspaper, copier paper etc.)
- Bowl of water (enough to cover shredded paper)
- Food coloring (optional)
- 15ml PVA glue
- Large container, tray, or bowl
- Spoon or whisk
- Wooden frame (this could be an old picture frame, or made from any straight sticks that are hot-melt glued together)
- Mesh (tights, netting, gauze or metal mesh) to cover one side of frame
- Absorbent cloths
- Plastic bag
- Heavy weight or rolling pin



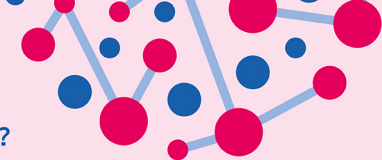
1. Start by covering one side of the frame with mesh.
2. Soak the shredded paper for a few hours (or overnight if you can) to break up the fibers.
3. Stir the soaked pulp carefully with a spoon or whisk.
4. Add food coloring (to cover any ink that's left in the paper) and the PVA glue and stir.
5. Place the meshed frame over the bowl and spread the pulp over the mesh, inside the frame.

6. Carefully press the pulp to remove some of the water, and then lift the mesh onto an absorbent cloth to remove more of the water.

7. Carefully turn the pulp out onto another absorbent cloth, cover with a plastic bag and use a heavy weight or rolling pin to squeeze more of the water from the sheet.

8. Leave the sheet to dry overnight before using your recycled paper!

9. Find out more about how paper is made in the next slide!



## How is paper made?

- Paper is created from wood fibers that are soaked in water, heated and squeezed dozens of times to force the fibers closer together. To recycle paper, fibers are separated back out, using water to form a pulp.
- Commercially, this would be cleaned to remove large particles and ink before reforming into sheets of paper.
- In this activity, some of the ink is squeezed into the water from the paper after soaking. Food coloring helps to cover ink left behind and PVA helps bind the fibers.