

FROGMORE PAPER MILL DELIVERED TO YOU



ABOUT PAPER

Curriculum topic - Materials KS1 - 3

4 litres
of half stuff
will easily do
a whole class
of 30.

Try it! HOW TO MAKE PAPER?

SHOW Film 1

You will need...

a kitchen blender
a small bucket
a scoop or small jug
waste paper - copier sheets, coloured paper - not heavily inked or coated
the mould and deckle in this pack
a large plastic container
a clean sponge
some J Cloths or cut down woollen blankets
some old towels
access to water
a biro NOT a pencil

A NOTE ON PAPER

Do not use old newspapers as while they will break down quickly, they will not give an attractive result. Any ink present will discolour the paper; one way to control this is to use single colour plain sheets. Alternatively, if some sheets are not blended too much, the little bits of text can add decoration. Decorative pieces in paper are called inclusions.

METHOD (see film 1)

- 1.** Firstly select enough paper to blend. Pulping paper makes this easy as you will get approximately one sheet for each sheet pulped.
- 2.** 2/3rd fill the blender with tap water.
- 3.** Gradually add the sheets, torn up into chunks approx.4cm. Blend for about 20 seconds. You have created Half Stuff. It is handy to have a bucket to tip the contents of your blender into. It will keep for days like this, if the temperature is not too hot. Make a bit more than you think you need for your group. A half bucket of half stuff (porridge consistency) should easily be enough for a group of 30.
- 4.** Make up your vat or vats. Using a large plastic tub - storage boxes are ideal. 2/3rd fill with warm tap water. Then add 2 or 3 jugs of Half Stuff and stir.

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METHOD continued

- 5.** Do a test piece before starting with your group to check thickness of paper produced is sufficient. You should not see through it! It should be about 3mm thick as it will get thinner when pressed.
- 6.** Place a towel or A4 blankets in a pile by the vat. At the bottom of the pile put a narrow folded blanket to create a curve to the sheets on top. Add a damp JCloth to the top if preferred. These are to couch (from the French, coucher, meaning to sleep or to lay) your paper onto.
- 7. FORMING** Stir the vat. Hold the mould wire side up and place the deckle (frame) on top of the mould, gripping each side with thumb and forefinger. Scoop the mould and deckle down vertically on the far side of the vat. Near the bottom flatten (deckleside up) and lift steadily in a horizontal position. Go slowly as you break the surface and you should feel a pull. This helps to extract more water. Do a side to side shake as you clear the vat surface. This method enables you to get under the stock (mixture in the vat is stock or stuff) and as you lift up, to catch lots of fibres to make a firm sheet. Allow any excess water to drain. Carefully remove the deckle
- 8. COUCHING** Hold the mould upside down, (long sides left and right) - the paper will not fall off if properly drained. Press one long side onto the felts/wool/JCloth and with a rolling action roll the wet paper on the mould, across the surface, swopping your weight to the other hand. And lift using the same motion. Your paper should now be on your felts. This may take some practice. Move this sheet on its felt to one side. Further sheets can be stacked on top. This stack is called a post. Finish with at least 2 felts on the top.
- 9. PRESS** If you do not have a press, you can place the sheets between boards and stand on them as in Film 1. The aim is to flat press the sheets and get rid of much of the water still held by the fibres. Water will seep out so use a hard floor or go outside.
- 10. DRYING** Sheet can be hung/pegged up to dry. A final press between boards or heavy books will flatten any slight distortion.