Kids Explore!

Make Your Own Paper

Become your own recycling machine!

Materials

◆ Scrap paper (you can also add yarn/thread, felt scraps, flowers (fresh or dried), seeds, or other natural materials)

◆ Container for soaking materials

◆ Water, newspapers, colander

◆ Blender (use an old one that's just for crafts or find a used one at a thrift store)

◆ Small piece of window screen, at least 1' x 1'(find at BRING or MECCA)

Adult help may be needed on steps with ⇨.

1. Tear your paper into small pieces and put them in your soaking container. Hint: If you mix lots of different colors, your paper will end up grayish. If you combine scraps that are similar—like blues and greens or reds, yellows, and oranges—your paper will be brighter. Also, the less you blend the pulp, the more you will see the individual bits of color.

2. Cover your paper pieces with water and let them soak for a few minutes.

⇨ 3. Put your soaked paper into the blender with a little extra water. Blend the mixture until it looks like mushy cereal. Stir in some natural materials, felt, or yarn/thread after blending if you would like to make your paper even more interesting. Add seeds if you want your paper to be plantable!

4. Drain the mixture with the colander.

5. Put your screen on a pile of newspapers and place a handful of the paper mix on top of the screen. Using your hands first, then lots of newspapers, press the water out of the pulp and shape your paper.

6. Lift the screen off the newspaper, gently peel your paper from the screen, and put your creation on some dry newspaper to dry.

7. Use your paper for cards, ornaments (hole punch and hang from yarn), or simply as beautiful art!