

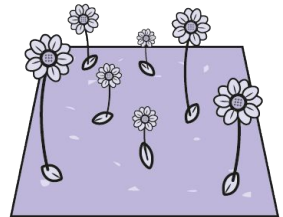


Grow Plants from Paper

This activity is a fun way to introduce your students to **recycling** and **reducing waste** whilst also incorporating the theme of nature and preservation. Working in groups of 4-5, students will create their very own **seed paper!**

Things you'll need per group

- Lots of used paper (newspaper, old print outs, cardboard, construction paper, etc.)
- Water
- Bowl
- Tray
- Towel
- Sponges
- Blender
- Frame/screen (materials may vary, see below)
- Seeds (can be any kind of native wildflower seeds)



Preparation

Paper

Cut all the used paper into small pieces (1cm by 5 cm) and soak them in water for a few hours or overnight.

Frame/screen

One frame will be necessary per group. The size of the frame will determine the size of the paper. You can definitely buy some but there are also a few ways to make them:

Option 1: Bend a wire hanger into a rectangle or oval and tape the ends together to make a frame. Then stretch the stockings over the frame and tie the end.

Option 2: Remove the back of a picture frame and stretch a mesh/net made of steel/iron/nylon/acrylic over one side. Secure the mesh/net by nailing/taping it down to the frame.

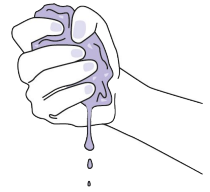
Option 3: For a slightly sturdier DIY frame, check out this [link!](#)



Instructions

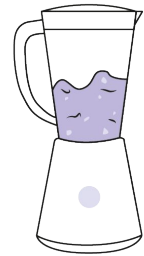
Step 1

Distribute the soaked paper in bowls and necessary materials to each group. Have them squeeze out the excess water and place the paper in a bowl (be sure to have some towels handy in case things get a bit messy!). This step isn't necessary but is a fun way to include the students.



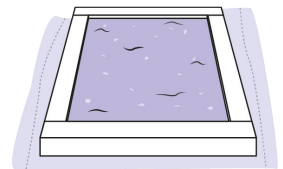
Step 2

Once the students have squeezed out all the water from their paper, have them bring you the bowl of paper. You can then take several handfuls and add it to the blender alongside some water. Blend all the paper together until it becomes a gooey pulp (be careful not to add too little water as it could burn out the blenders motor).



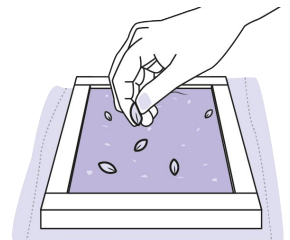
Step 3

Once the pulp is nice and gooey, you can distribute it back evenly to all the groups in the same bowls. If the mixture is too liquidy, you can blend some more paper with less water and add it to the bigger mixture until the consistency is nice and gooey.



Step 4

Have your students flatten out the gooey pulp on their frames (we strongly recommend having a towel under the frames). They should then press down on the pulp using their sponges as hard as they can!



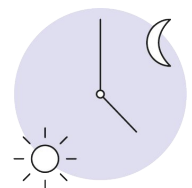
Step 5

The students can then sprinkle their seeds on the pulp. Make sure to tell them that they'll need to push them in slightly to ensure they stick to the pulp.

Step 5

Place a towel over the frame/pulp and let dry overnight.

The following day, the papers should be dry. You can cut each paper evenly based on the number of students in a group. Each student can draw on their paper (using colour pencils or biodegradable markers) and plant it at home or at school!





We welcome feedback and would be delighted to hear your thoughts on this activity. Feel free to send an email to schools@climatescience.org and we'll be sure to get back to you soon :)