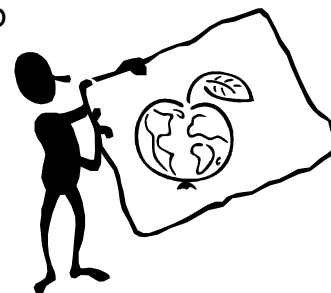


## Fruits of Red Rose Forest

### Paper Making

Paper Making is a great activity that almost anyone can have a go at. Bits of pulped up wood, leaves, stem fibres, flowers and pips can be added to the paper pulp, which will then become embedded in the final sheet of new paper. Pips can even be added onto the made paper, left to dry and stuck onto a card, which can then be used to celebrate your orchard. This pip paper can be planted, and will eventually grow into a brand new fruit tree!



The easiest way to make paper is to recycle used paper. This can be collected, shredded or torn, and used to make new sheets of hand made paper. The basic equipment needed is a Mould and Deckle (a paper-making frame) – these can be purchased from craft shops or made yourself (see activity sheet).

You will need water to make paper, and you will probably get wet – so it is a good activity to do outside! The paper will also need to be dried, or if taken home wet you will need a supply of cheap J-cloths or paper towels to put the sheets of paper onto.

#### Making pulp:



If using recycled paper take out staples, then shred or tear into very small (about 2cm) pieces. Put this into a bucket, pour over boiling water and allow to soak for at least 2 hours. Using a hand blender, blend the paper into a porridge-like pulp. This is then ready to use and can be mixed with other fibres, coloured or used on it's own. It can be kept for a short time by squeezing the water out and drying until needed.

Pulp can also be made from plant fibres, which will need cutting up, (some may need boiling to soften) and then blending or pulped using sticks in buckets (good fun for children!). Good results can be had with daffodil leaves, stems and petals. The plant fibres are still clearly seen in the finished paper, which is more decorative, than useful for writing.

#### Ideas Spot!



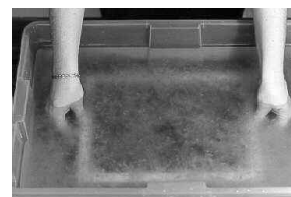
Why not.....  Make your own paper  Make invites to a juicing party  
 Collect leaves and press them onto your own paper  Try making paper from plant stems and colour with blackberry juice  Host a paper bash!

## Making a sheet of paper:

You will need: washing up bowl half full of water, bucket of pulp, a pile of newspapers to soak up excess water, kitchen cloths (cheap J-cloths are ideal), and a sponge. Optional: laminated boards and G-Clamps.

1. Place a pile of newspapers or old fabric and then a kitchen cloth on the table, with your washing up bowl of water. Add about a handful of pulp to this water and mix it in. More pulp will make thicker paper.
2. Place the mould so that the mesh is face up, and put the deckle on the top. Grip the two firmly, holding them by the shorter edge.
3. Slip the mould and deckle at an angle into the pulp mixture, then straighten up so that they lie flat beneath the surface of the liquid.

4. Keeping the mould and deckle level, pull them straight up out of the liquid. Hold the mould and deckle level - the water will drain back through the mesh.



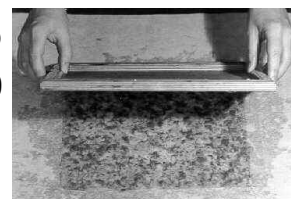
5. Gently shake the mould and deckle backward and forward, and side to side. This will help the fibres settle and mesh together.

6. Take the deckle off the mould. Let it drain then put one edge of the sheet of paper face down on the kitchen cloth and gently press the sheet of paper onto the pile. This is called "couching". Sponge off excess water from the back of the mesh - do not rub or the paper will move underneath.



7. Carefully remove the mould. You can layer several sheets by putting another piece of kitchen cloth over the finished sheet and continuing.

8. To keep paper flat when dried, press between 2 laminated boards and clamp together. Layer with felt or newspapers to absorb moisture. If taking straight home, leave on the J-cloth until dry, then peel off. (You will need lots of J-cloths!)



If you would like more information, please contact Red Rose Forest:

t. 0161 872 1660

e. [team@redroseforest.co.uk](mailto:team@redroseforest.co.uk)

  
Get involved

redroseforest