How to Make Paper

FREE PRINTABLE PROCESS CARD

Ages 6+ with a grown-up • Start one day, finish the next

YOU NEED

- ☐ Scrap paper (nothing glossy)
- ☐ A blender (grown-ups only)
- ☐ A big tub or basin
- ☐ A mesh screen on a frame
- ☐ A sponge
- ☐ 2 pieces of felt or old cloth
- ☐ A rolling pin or heavy books
- ☐ Optional: petals or seeds

MAKE IT

1. Tear the scrap paper into small pieces and soak them in warm water for at least an hour. Overnight is even better.
2. Grown-up step: blend a handful of soaked paper with lots of water, until it looks like thin, watery soup. This is pulp.
3. Pour the pulp into the tub with more water, and stir it with your hand so it floats evenly.
4. Slide the screen under the pulp and lift it straight up. Hold it over the tub for a minute to drain.
5. Flip the screen, pulp side down, onto a felt sheet. Press with the sponge to squeeze out water, then lift the screen away.
6. Cover with the second felt and roll with the rolling pin — or press under heavy books — to flatten the sheet.
7. Peel your new paper off the felt, and leave it to dry flat for about 24 hours.

★ TIP

Holes in the sheet? Stir the pulp again and lift the screen more slowly. Too thick? Add more water to the tub. Falling apart? Blend the pulp a little longer. Wavy edges are normal — that's how you know it's handmade.