

Reduce, Reuse and Recycle



Grade Level

2-6

Materials

- Used paper (try different types and colors)
- Blender
- Water
- Measuring cup
- 11" x14" framed window screen
- Newspaper

Discussion

Engineers innovate solutions to problems. For instance, engineers find safer ways to dispose of household and industrial wastes. Engineers also work to ensure the quality of water and air by developing cleaner processes to manufacture products, both from new materials and by recycling used materials.

Paper is a common example of something that can be recycled. Not all paper is recycled the same way; some paper requires complex chemical treatments before it can be made into usable recycled paper. For this reason, we must not simply recycle our paper, but carefully choose what kinds of paper to buy in order to minimize environmental waste.

Engineers find creative ways to recycle paper and help develop strategies to reduce pollution and treat wastes that can't be eliminated.

Activity

1. Take the recycled paper and rip it up into little pieces until you have about 2 cups.
2. Place the pieces into the blender.
3. Add 1 cup of water and then blend until smooth.
4. Pour mixture onto 1/2" x 14" screen while holding over the newspaper or a sink.
5. After it has dried overnight, use it to write on the next day.



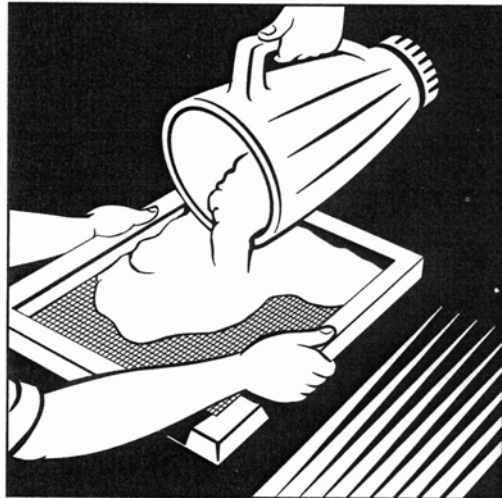
Additional Challenges

Continue your discussion about recycling. Talk about creative ways to reuse everyday products. Ask students to develop new and different uses for old materials. For example, the rubber padding in some playgrounds is made from old tires; your plastic gallon milk jug is turned into a park bench.

This activity was written for National Engineers Week by the Junior Engineering Technical Society (JETS).

JETS, Inc.

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