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Raven Hill Discovery Center is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation.

Mission: Raven Hill provides a place that enhances hands-on and lifelong learning for all ages by connecting science, history & the arts.

Making paper

Paper was first made in China. Paper is made from single fibers of materials, such as rags and plants that mat together to form the paper. Many other forms of paper were used, before real paper was discovered, such as carving wood or stone, painting on silk, pounding plant materials such as papyrus and using pounded animal skins, which is called parchment. You can use a paper egg carton to make a sheet of paper. Tear the egg carton into pieces and soak in water. I soak mine overnight. Tear a small amount of the egg carton into even smaller pieces—about the size of a fingernail. Put a small amount of the pieces into a blender with extra water. Blend the pulp until the fibers are separated and the water and fiber mixture is uniformly smooth—like a smoothie. Put water into a bowl and add the pulp to get a watery mix. Dip a sieve into the bowl and pick up an even coating of fiber. The water will drain through. Put a towel out to absorb extra water and put a piece of smooth cotton cloth on top. Turn the sieve over and let the pulp fall on the cloth. Use the bottom of the sieve to spread out and smooth the pulp. Place another piece of cotton over the top of the paper fibers. Use a sponge or wash cloth to remove extra water, then iron the sandwich to evaporate the remaining water. Pull the cloths apart to find your piece of paper. Pour more fibers through the sieve and spread out the pulp evenly in the sieve. I set mine out in the sun to let the pulp dry in the sieve. Once dry, you will have a paper bowl. Both can be decorated with markers.



1 Supplies + water



2 Tear carton to pieces



3 Soak in water



4 Blend



5 Ready to iron dry



6 Sandwich



7 Iron



8 More pulp for bowl



9 Finished products!