

Paper: Key Stages 1 and 2

Ideas for teachers including teachers' notes for pupils' activity pages

Hyperlinks within the text are **underlined bold copy**.

Click on the link to find out more about the subject.

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Ideas for teachers

Background

Paper is made from the pulp of trees. If we use less paper, fewer trees will be used to make paper which is better for the environment. Recycling paper is a good way to reduce the number of trees cut down for making paper but by reducing the amount of paper we use is an even better solution.

We use 12.5 million tonnes of paper and cardboard every year in the UK

Rethink

- Think about how you teach. Think about all the methods you use that don't use paper; oral lessons, discussions, debates, drama, ICT and practical activities can all be carried out paper free. Consider using more paper free teaching methods.
- Why not have a Paper Free Day at school. You could measure how much paper you save in one day. Paper Free Days could take place regularly
- Think about when you use paper in your classroom. Do you always need to use paper? Think of other ways to record learning such as by using ICT, taking digital photographs, video or audio recording.
- Painting display boards annually can cut down on the amount of backing paper and trims needed.
- Consider more paper free homework instead of worksheets.
- Buy recycled paper products for your class when doing your requisition. Consider having a policy for using recycled paper products when possible.

One tonne of paper made from recycled pulp saves 17 trees

The average British family throws away 6 trees worth of paper in their household bin in a year

- Don't forget other paper products like cardboard, card, tissue, kitchen rolls, toilet paper, wrapping paper, newspapers, magazines, paper plates and cups etc. Set the children a task to list all the paper products they use in school or at home in a day or a week, then think of ways to reduce their need for these.
- Think of different ways to send messages home such as by email or notes written in homework books.
- Class or school councils could lobby the school to use paper wisely and commit to reducing the amount of paper wasted. This could include a Paper Usage Reduction Policy with **paper saving tips** for staff and children.
- Invite local businesses, **politicians** or councillors in to your school so children can question them about what they are doing to reduce paper wastage in your area.
- Invite **Bryson House Education Unit** in to your school to do an **assembly on Waste**.

Over a million tonnes of newspapers are thrown away every year in the UK

On average every person in the UK gets through 38kg of newspapers a year



Reduce

- Encourage children to use the smallest size paper needed for a particular task.
- When using exercise books; use the pages more efficiently. Do children always need to take a new page? Use narrower margins or use the blank spaces for working out.
- Create electronic based worksheets rather than paper copies that children can complete on the computer rather than printed versions.
- If you really have to photocopy, consider reducing margins and white space and print on both sides. Providing one copy between two, halves your paper usage. Printing in booklet mode reduces your paper usage by a quarter.

- Use individual whiteboards or laminate a piece of card for each child to write on using water based markers. These can be used for practicing handwriting, working out or drawing and then simply wiped clean to be used again. Compare this to the use of chalk and slates in schools when paper was not so readily available.

The Play Resource Warehouse in Belfast is the largest creative resource centre of its kind in the UK

Reuse

- Create paper savers for your classroom, so children can store unused or used on one side paper and paper off-cuts. Encourage children to keep clean scrap paper for notes, working out and art and craft activities. They could design their own paper savers for the class so that they can sort into different sizes and textures.
- Use both sides of paper when you can.
- Use scrap paper and card for art and craft activities such as creating musical instruments, puppets, wrapping paper, cards, junk modelling etc. [**For ideas see here.**](#)
- Visit the [**Play Resource Warehouse**](#) in Belfast which provides a huge range of waste materials collected from industry which can be used in schools.



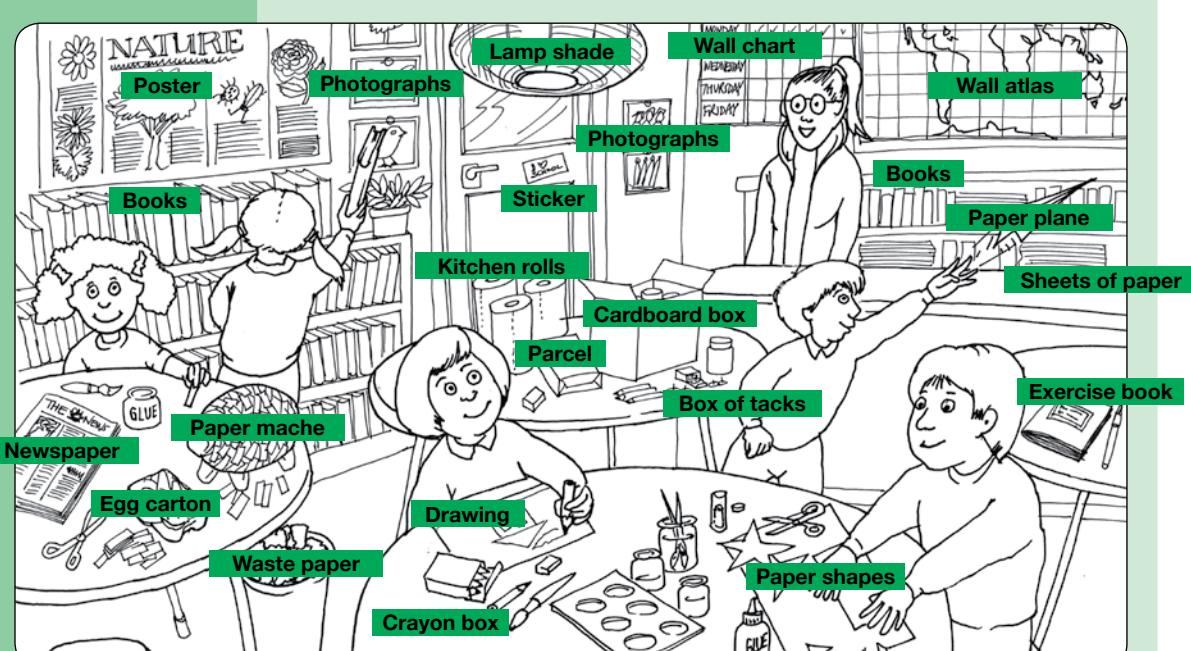
The UK uses a forest the size of Wales every year in paper

Recycle

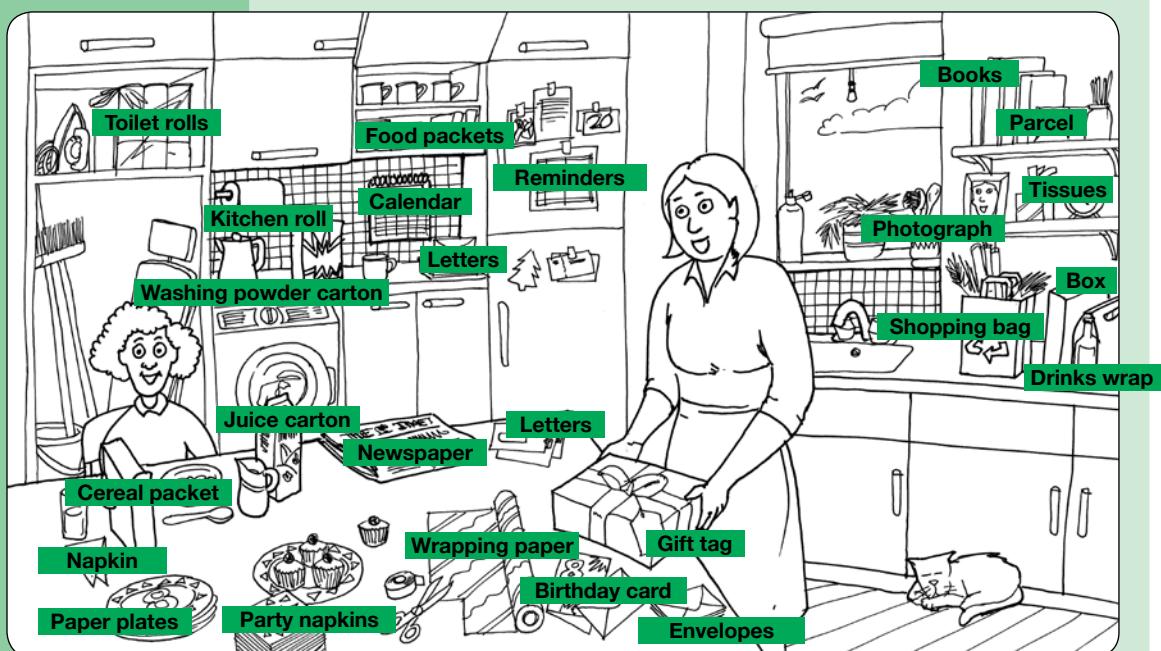
- Once paper is no longer usable in class send it for recycling.
- Have recycle bins available in class and make sure children know when and how to use them.
- Visit your [**local recycling centre**](#) to learn more about the recycling process.

Teachers' notes for pupils' activity pages

Key Stage 1	
Key message	Don't waste paper
Curriculum links	Cross-Curricular Skills Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities Language and Literacy The Arts The World Around Us Personal Development and Mutual Understanding
Background Knowledge	Paper is made from wood pulp which comes from cutting down trees. Old paper can be used again to make new paper – this is called recycled paper.
Aim	Children will understand that paper and paper products are made from trees and that we should use it wisely
Objectives	Children will be- able to identify some common objects that are made from trees. Children will be able to identify paper and paper products in their local environment
Discussion Activities	Collect together a selection of some common items that are made from trees such as wooden and paper objects as well as some objects that are made from other materials such as plastic, metal, glass. Let the children hold and touch them; you could use a 'Feely Bag'. Encourage them to use describing words to say how the objects feel. Talk to the children about the different objects and what they are made from. Wooden objects might be more easily identifiable as coming from trees but explain that wood can be turned into pulp and used to make paper. Ask the children to try and sort the objects into the different materials they are made from.

Watch	Watch this video that shows how trees are used to make paper. Explain that paper is made from wood chips that are made into pulp and then bleached and formed into paper.
Make	Try making your own paper in class.
Childrens' activities	
Connect	
Paper in school and at home	<p>Have the children look or walk around the classroom and try to identify items that are made from paper such as paper card, cardboard, tissue etc. Children could bring back the items they have found and use them for a circle time activity. They could describe the feel or the properties of the items they have found.</p> <p>Use the picture of the classroom with the children either individually or with the whole class using the interactive whiteboard to 'spot the paper'</p> 

Circle all the things that are made from paper in this classroom.



Task the children to identify paper and paper products in their homes. This could be done for homework with follow up on return to class.

Colour all the items that you can see at home that are made from paper.

Paper chase

Send the children on a paper chase to find different sizes, colours and textures of scrap paper that they can tear, cut and glue together to make a collage.

Make paper savers

Explain to the children how to choose and decorate large flat cardboard boxes to be used as paper savers for school and home. Make sure they understand the type of paper scraps that go in the paper savers; that paper savers are reusing boxes rather than recycling boxes.

They could come up with a list of dos and don't for the front of the boxes.

E.g.

- *Do put in clean paper that can be used for notes and working out.*
- *Don't put in dirty or crumpled paper that can't be used.*

Tell others	Discuss with the children how to share what they have learned about the importance of using paper wisely with others. Help them prepare a play, poem or song about using less paper to share the message. You could use the tunes or rhythms from well known songs or rhymes such as a start. Add your own actions to get your message across
Make mini-books	Show children how to fold and prepare mini-books using paper that is clean on one side. Children can draw or write their own stories to make their own little books and even libraries.

Key Stage 2	
Key message	Don't waste paper
Curriculum links	Cross-Curricular Skills Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities Language and Literacy Mathematics and Numeracy The Arts The World Around Us Personal Development and Mutual Understanding
Background Knowledge	Paper is made from wood pulp which comes from cutting down trees. Old paper can be used again to make new paper – this is called recycled paper.
Aim	Children will know that paper is used for a variety of different purposes. Children will understand the basic stages of the paper making process.
Objectives	Children will be able to identify paper and paper products in their local environment. Children will think creatively about ways to reduce their paper usage. Children will be able to explain that paper is made from wood pulp from trees and recycled paper. Children will attempt to share their learning to encourage others to use paper wisely.

Childrens' activities	
Paper audit	Help the children to set up a table on the computer with three columns. In the first column they should list all the paper and paper products they use in class in a day. In the second column they should write down what these items are used for. In the third column they should try to think of how to reduce the amount of these that are used or alternatives which are more environmentally friendly. A word list has been provided to help them.
Tell others	Encourage the children to think of ways they could share what you have learnt with others and persuade the other children in the school to use less paper. Children could; <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Prepare an assembly■ Use drama, song or other creative means,■ Prepare a Power Point presentation or a short video.
Paperless party	In this activity children are asked to plan a birthday party thinking of alternatives to all the paper products commonly used. Ask the children to then share their ideas with the rest of the class without using paper.
The story of paper	For this activity the children must try to sequence the story of paper using the pictures. You could watch this video that shows how trees are used to make paper as a starting point. If the children sequence the picture in a line explain how recycled paper can also be used to make paper so the process could be presented as a cycle.