

# PAPER GROWS TREES

## Dear Educator,

Paper is one of the most versatile classroom resources, important for everything from books to journals to handouts to drawing projects. You and your students may sometimes worry that using so much paper could have a negative environmental impact, but in fact, the use of all wood-based products — and especially paper — is key to maintaining healthy forests across the country. That's why we say, Paper Grows Trees!

This free educational program will help you share this perhaps surprising environmental lesson with your K-3 students. Developed by the curriculum specialists at Young Minds Inspired (YMI) in partnership with Boise Paper, the program shows how wood-based products like paper help support sustainable forest management practices while also providing environmental, economic, and social benefits within communities.

In addition, the program reinforces the importance of reusing and recycling paper, and the positive environmental impact of these actions.

Please share this program with other K-3 teachers at your school. Although the materials are protected by copyright, you may make as many copies as you need for educational purposes.

Sincerely,  
Your Friends at Boise Paper

## Program Objectives

- Raise student awareness of the relationship between sustainable forestry practices and using wood-based products like paper
- Teach students about renewable natural resources
- Reinforce the importance of reusing and recycling paper
- Support language arts and science lessons
- Engage students in group discussion and interpretation of infographics

## Target Audience

Students in grades K-3

## How to Use This Program

Copy and distribute the activity sheets for your grade group. For all grades, introduce the program with the *How Wood-Based Products Grow Trees* infographic at the top of Activity 1. Use the background information and discussion questions below to help students interpret the infographic. Then follow the directions for your grade-group to complete Activity 1.

## Infographic Activity (All grades)

Ask students to discuss the pictures in the infographic at the top of Activity 1. Help them interpret each section

of the infographic using the background information and questions below. You may want to begin by explaining that a product is something made from something else. Point out the two wood-based products in the infographic, the bench and the books, then ask students to name other wood-based products.

**PLANT:** Trees make paper, and when you use paper, you are helping to plant more trees! Most U.S. forests are owned and cared for by families. These families plant trees that are used to make wood products that we use, like paper. This helps these families and people in the community have jobs, while keeping forests healthy and safer from wildfires. Using

less wood-based products means that these families will plant fewer trees.

**Questions:** *What do you know about forests? What about the life cycle of a tree?*

**GROW:** Forests and trees, like water, rocks, and minerals, are natural resources. Natural resources are used to make many things that are part of our everyday lives, like paper and even pencils. Trees are also important parts of ecosystems around the world. They provide food and homes for animals and also bring beauty and joy to people.

**Questions:** *In what ways do people enjoy forests? What animals live there? What do trees need in order to grow? Do you think using fewer wood products helps or hurts these forests? Why or why not?* (Refer to the statement under PLANT.)

**HARVEST:** Foresters don't cut down or harvest all the trees in a section of the forest at once. They harvest only fully-grown trees. That makes trees renewable resources because foresters can plant new trees to replace the ones they harvested. It also means they are practicing sustainability because when they harvest trees, they plant trees for use in the future.

**Questions:** *What kinds of jobs do people who work in forestry have?* (Examples include loggers, park rangers, and tree scientists.) *How might people having these jobs help a community?*

**USE:** We use wood-based products or products made from wood every day. Using less paper could cause landowners to sell less wood, and possibly sell their land, which could put the forest in danger. The land might be sold to build a shopping mall or housing development. That would cause animals to lose their habitat and people to lose their jobs. Healthy forests make our communities better for the environment, for the economy, and for people.

**Questions:** *How is the picture on the activity sheet like a cycle? Can you summarize how the various parts of the cycle work together? What might happen to the environment and to people if we use fewer products made from wood?*



# PAPER GROWS TREES

## ACTIVITIES FOR GRADES K-1

### ACTIVITY 1

#### Paper Grows Trees

Direct students to circle and color the images of wood-based products at the bottom of the activity sheet. Have students take the completed sheets home to share with their families.



**Answers:** book, baseball bat, board game, drawing pad, pencil, telephone pole

Now ask students to brainstorm other wood-based products and use a separate sheet of paper to draw a picture of their favorite. Post student work in the classroom.

### ACTIVITY 2

#### Rewards of Recycling

Hold up a piece of used notebook paper and ask students to think about what they learned from Activity 1. Prompt them to tell you where the paper came from. The store? Where was the paper before it got to the store?



Explain that, just as wood goes on a journey of growth, harvest, and use, paper — a wood product — goes on a journey, too. Its journey includes being used, reused, and then recycled to be used again. When we reuse and recycle paper, we help it continue its journey and help protect the Earth's resources. Reusing paper conserves energy that would be needed to make new paper, which also reduces pollution. Recycling paper makes sure less waste goes into landfills.

Ask students to share some examples of how we reuse paper. For example, after writing on one side, we can turn it over and use the other side. We can also reuse paper as wrapping paper, bulletin board paper, or even use it as a toy or tool, such as making a paper airplane or a fan!

Distribute the activity sheet and have students put the sentences in the order that describes the paper's journey. Then have them "pair and share" as they describe the paper's "life cycle".

**Answers:**

1. The paper is sold at a store.
2. The paper is used for homework.
3. The paper is reused as a paper airplane.
4. The paper is recycled, and it will become new paper that can be used again.

## ACTIVITIES FOR GRADES 2-3

### ACTIVITY 1

#### Paper Grows Trees

Direct students to complete the word search at the bottom of the activity sheet to identify wood-based products.



**Answers:**

B	A	S	E	B	A	L	L	B	A	T
K	O	O	B	T	A	B	C	D	E	L
G	P	E	N	C	I	L	H	I	J	K
L	M	N	O	P	Q	S	R	W	Z	U
V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	S	C	D	E
F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	U	N	O
P	B	O	A	R	D	G	A	M	E	Q
R	D	R	A	W	I	N	G	P	A	D

Finally, ask students to brainstorm other wood-based products and use a separate sheet of paper to draw a picture of their favorite that includes them using it. Have them write a sentence that describes why they like that product. Post student work in the classroom.

### ACTIVITY 2

#### Rewards of Recycling

Ask students if it's possible to make something that is old new again. Let them brainstorm for a minute, and if no one thinks of it, bring up the process of reusing and recycling. Point out that when you use something again in a new way, you are making



something new from it. And when you've reused cardboard and paper products to the point that they can't be used anymore, you can recycle them — which makes them usable again. In fact, according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), more than 5,000 products can be made from recycled paper, including everything from animal bedding to money.

Ask students to brainstorm different ways they can reuse a piece of notebook paper. Then distribute the activity sheet and review the directions. When they are finished, display their creative ideas on a bulletin board!

**Answers:** Will vary.

#### Extension Activity Ideas

- Use students' favorite wood-based product drawings to create graphs based on categories they represent. For example, "Things Used at School/At Home."
- Have students read and research about trees and forests, then write a paragraph to show their knowledge on a topic of their choice such as the life cycle of a tree, animals who live in a forest, ways people enjoy the forest, etc.
- Go outside with students to observe and sketch trees on the school grounds. You might even help students plant and tend a small tree.
- Have a scavenger hunt for wood-based items in the classroom.
- Track how much paper and other materials are recycled in the classroom and/or at home. Encourage students to work with their families to recycle even more than they do now. For fun, have students color and make paper fans or airplanes using existing/used notebook paper, or challenge them to create the most unique item they can with reused paper.

#### Resources

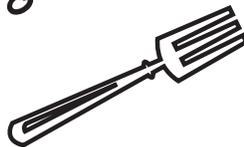
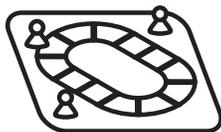
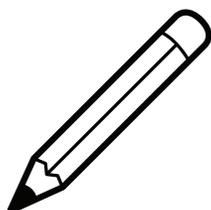
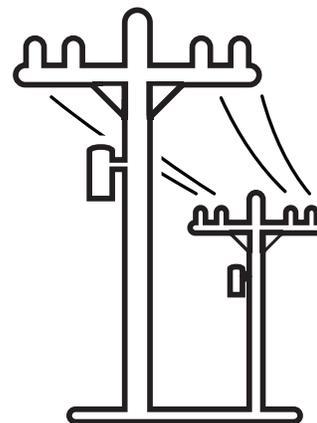
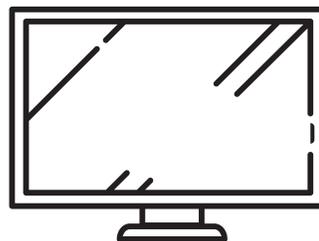
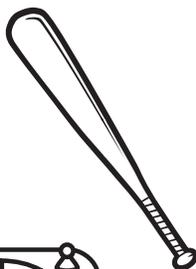
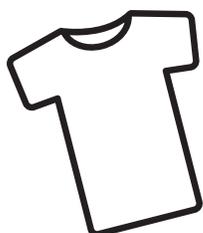
- Boise Paper: BoisePaper.com
- Boise Paper Sustainable Forestry: <http://bph.boisepaper.com/paper-with-purpose/sustainable-forestry/>
- Paper Grows Trees: <https://p.widencdn.net/ax41vm/Paper-Grows-Trees-Brochure>
- Paper and Packaging Board: [howlifeunfolds.com](http://howlifeunfolds.com)
- Recycling: <https://sanjoserecycles.org/5-reasons-to-recycle/> and <https://archive.epa.gov/wastes/conserve/materials/paper/web/html/faqs.html>

# PAPER GROWS TREES

Trees give us many things we use every day, like paper. When you use paper and other things made from wood at school and at home, you are helping to grow trees! Listen as your teacher explains how.



Circle and then color the pictures that show things made from trees that you might use. Cross out images not made from trees.



**Parents and Caregivers!** Ask your child to tell you what they have learned about how paper grows trees. As a family, brainstorm or create a scavenger hunt to find wood-based products you use at home. Or play a game where the goal is to determine how many wood-based products the family uses in a day.

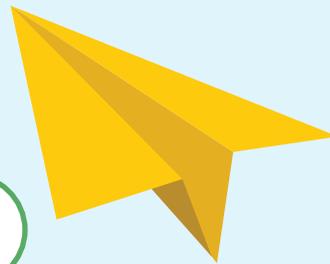


# REWARDS OF RECYCLING

These pictures show the journey a sheet of notebook paper might take. Put the pictures in the correct order by numbering them from 1 to 4 to tell the story of the paper's journey.



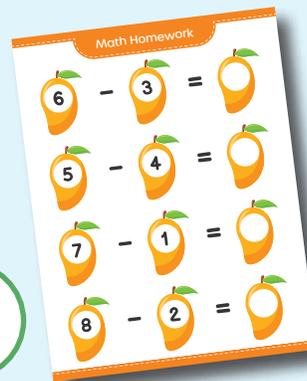
The paper is recycled, and it will become new paper that can be used again.



The paper is reused as a paper airplane.

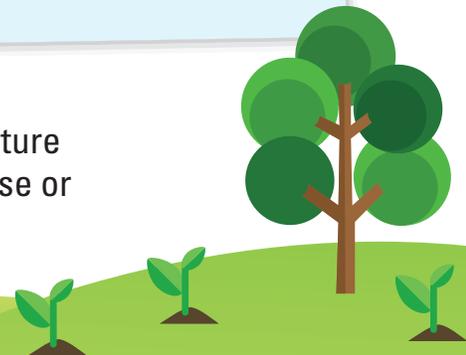


The paper is sold at a store.



The paper is used for homework.

**Now, reuse this piece of paper!** Draw a picture on the back of this sheet that shows how you reuse or recycle paper to help protect the Earth.



# PAPER GROWS TREES

Trees help give us many products we use every day, like paper. When you use paper and other wood products at school and at home, you are helping to grow trees! Listen as your teacher explains how.



## Test Your Tree Smarts!

Can you find all the wood products hidden in the word search below? Circle them. Use the Word Bank if you need help.

### WORD BANK

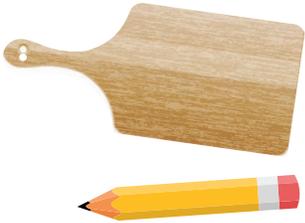
- BOOK
- BASEBALL BAT
- BOARD GAME
- DRAWING PAD
- PENCIL
- TISSUE

B	A	S	E	B	A	L	L	B	A	T
K	O	O	B	T	A	B	C	D	E	L
G	P	E	N	C	I	L	H	I	J	K
L	M	N	O	P	Q	S	R	W	Z	U
V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	S	C	D	E
F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	U	N	O
P	B	O	A	R	D	G	A	M	E	Q
R	D	R	A	W	I	N	G	P	A	D

**Parents and Caregivers!** Ask your child to tell you what they have learned about how paper grows trees. As a family, brainstorm or create a scavenger hunt to find wood-based products you use at home. Or play a game where the goal is to determine how many wood-based products the family uses in a day.

# REWARDS OF RECYCLING

**Look around you.** We are surrounded by wood-based products! We use wood-based products in our classrooms and in our homes every day.



For example: Locate an item in your home or classroom that is wood-based, such as a wooden cutting board in the kitchen, a ruler or pencil in your classroom, or a wooden planter in your garden. Anything made of paper or cardboard is wood-based, too. There are even surprising wood-based products like toilet seats!

How do you reuse and recycle paper to help protect Earth and keep paper out of landfills?

Think of a creative way you can reuse a piece of paper to make something “new.” Making something new from something old is called *upcycling*. Name and write about your new upcycled paper product. Then draw a picture of it.

Name of my new product: \_\_\_\_\_

