

Paper in World Art: Introductory Curriculum

Objectives:

- #1. Know the History and Current Importance of Paper
- #2. Be Able to Make Paper

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Objective #1: Know the Importance, History, and Presence of Paper

A. QUESTIONS:

1. HOW MANY WAYS DOES PAPER TOUCH YOUR LIFE?

It's a large number! Sometimes we want to remember, so we write ourselves a note, such as what we want to buy at the store. We use paper thousands of ways, from checking accounts & money to school books, from receipts to diplomas, we use paper every day.

2. DOES COMMUNICATING BY COMPUTER CHANGE THE WAYS WE USE PAPER?

From the paper you have gathered, you see that we use a lot of paper for many different reasons. Your list of papers you used as well as your bag of papers are a kind of history book. There have been many such "history books" over time. Humans have always had an interest in memory and have used surfaces to record and make ideas and feelings available to eye, hand, and other. From writing on stones 30,000 years ago (we still do this in cemeteries to remember our dead) to paper, our recording materials and technology are changing.

B. ACTIVITIES:

1. COLLECT AND/OR INVENTORY PAPER USE FOR ONE DAY OR ONE WEEK.

For one day, make a list of the ALL paper you use. Collect samples of the papers you encounter and put them in a brown paper bag!

2. LOCATE PAPER IN TIME AND SPACE.

Learn paper history by using the timeline provided or a obtain a map of the world. One might make a paper/product map for each place on the world, indicating what people made paper from, what they used it for, dates, etc.

Egypt	2500bce	Papyrus
China	107ce	Mulberry & Silk
Arabia	751ce	Various Fibers
Europe	1350ce	Paper replaces animal skins (called vellum).
Central America		Mayan "huun"
South America		Incan "amatl"
North America	1690	Rittenhouse in Philadelphia

3. READ THE MATERIALS ON THE HISTORY OF PAPER AND ON THE WHITE BIRCH.

4. USE BIRCH BARK AS A SURFACE ON WHICH TO WRITE, PAINT, COLLAGE, ETC. **HERE IS YOUR INVITATION!**

C. OUTCOMES:

1. Points out the **importance** of paper in daily life;
2. Demonstrates the reality of 50% of the **waste stream** being paper;
3. **Harvests** raw materials for use in making paper
4. **History** of ‘paper’ around the world is presented. Timeline below shows when humans developed some different writing surfaces, with special attention to how paper was invented by the Chinese in the second century, borrowed by the Islamic World in 751c.e. and finally taken up by the European West in 1350c.e.
5. Many **contemporary issues** are embedded in the history of paper, including politics, economics, technology and art. Here are some illustrative examples, which you may wish to discuss with your classes.
 - a. St. Augustine read Aristotle in Arabic, so we owe thanks to Islam for transmitting ideas via paper to the West.
 - b. We live in a time and place when paper mills are shutting down because people are using less paper. Should we reinvent/re-define the paper industry?
 - c. New Hampshire, the Granite State, has lost its ‘old man in the mountain’ but is also known by its state tree, the white birch, *Betula papyrifera*. It is famous for being among the first trees to appear after an area has been cut over or cleared. Should the state logo become the symbol of renewal, i.e., the state tree, ‘young maiden’ white birch tree=state logos?
 - d. As activities and objects are less ‘essential’ in western culture, their roles may shift. How does this impact paper? For example, we no longer are required to hunt dinner by trapping animals, so hunting has become a vacation activity. As computers have become more prevalent as communications tools of choice, the genre of ‘artist’s ‘book’ has arisen.

Objective #2: Be Able to Make Paper

- A. PAPERMAKING TOOLS AND SUPPLIES
1. FROM SCRATCH = with plant materials you harvest, boil, soak, blend, add binder and color.
 2. FROM LINTER = purchase, soak, blend, add color.
 3. FROM RECYCLED PAPER = binder already included. Layer w/ colored tissue paper. Whether you work from scratch, linter or recycled materials, you will need blender, flat waterproof pan, mould and deckle (cast flat sheets) or molds (cast forms), felt, surface such as plexiglass on which to 'couch' the paper.
- B. PAPERMAKING PROCESSES - See Readings -

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C. PAPERMAKING AND BOOKMAKING RESOURCES

American Museum of Papermaking-history of papermaking. <http://www.ipst.edu/amp>

Book Arts Directory- organized list of contacts for every aspect of book arts.
<http://www.bookarts.com>

Books Arts Classified, published by Page Two, Inc. 27218 SW Kelly, Ste. 222, Portland, OR 97201.

Book Arts List-free info group, maintained by Peter Verheyen at University of Syracuse. subscribe.

Address: listserv@listserv.syr.edu

Message: SUBSCRIBE BOOK ARTSL <your email

Center for Book Arts-classes, publishes Book Arts Review. www.centerforbookarts.org
626 Broadway, 5th Floor, NY, NY.

Dick Blick-fancy papers, paper making kits, www.dickblick.com

Harcourt Bindery-cut book board and book cloth. Boston, MA 617-542-5858

Iowa Center for the Book-courses. www.uiowa.edu/~ctrbook

Kids Making Books-An Idea Exchange for Educators, Box 46009, SF, CA 94146

Oakknoll Press- publishes books about books. www.oakknoll.com

Rugg Road Papers-courses and supplies, 617-742-0002, 105 Charles St, Boston, 02114

University Products-archival boards and boxes, 1-800-336-4847, Holyoke, MA

Tools and Supplies to make Japanese Stab Bind Book

Pencil, Scissors, Ruler, angle or 't' square, Stiff brushes in various widths for gluing, Glue, Bone folder or Popsicle stick, Binding thread or ribbons, cords, twine, etc. Craft needles with eye large enough to hold binding thread of choice. Paper for inside the book. Cloth, book cloth, decorative papers to cover front and back covers, inside and outside. Sand paper or emery board. Drill press (w/ drill bit to make hole to correspond to size of binding thread and needle.) Set of book boards for each participant (sample below is for 9"x12" book and can be ordered pre-cut to specification, along with book cloth by the yard, Harcourt Binderies.

1 – 7/8"	x 12"
1 – 8 "	x 12"
1 – 9"	X12"

III. Readings

- A. Map of Silk Road**
- B. Papyrus**
- C. Americas**
- D. Papermaking Methods 1**
- E. Papermaking Methods 2**
- F. Form to Record Papermaking Experiments**
- G. White Birch**

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