

**Brownie Wonders of Water**  
**Take Action Project Sample Sessions: Paper for People**

Recycling is a growing community effort. Schools are becoming better about recycling pop cans and bottles, and increasing the use of recyclable products. But what happens to paper? Are school papers being recycled at home and at school? What happens to flyers, tests, art projects and worksheets that don't end up on the refrigerator or in a scrapbook? What can you do to ensure paper ends up in the recycle bin? Embarking on a "Paper for People" project makes use of old paper and teaches girls to be resourceful.

**Session 1**

*Recycling—learn about recycling and community impact*  
*Prepare for Paper Making—talk about paper making*

**Session 2**

*Prepare for Paper Making*  
*Paper Making—create new paper*

**Session 3**

*Card and Stationary Making—create cards or stationary out of recycled paper*

**Session 4**

*Recycling Circle—discuss what has been learned about paper*

**Session 1: Recycling**

Objective: Learn about recycling and discuss impact on the community.

Time Allotment: 15 minutes

Materials Needed:

- Book and other sources of information

Reading and Discussion:

1. Gather and read information about conserving resources.
2. Discuss together what you have learned.
  - What does "conserve" mean? "Pollution?" "Recycling?"
  - Ask girls: How do people you know recycle? What is the symbol for "recycling"? Why do you think that this is the symbol? Where do you see this symbol?

**Session 1: Prepare for Paper Making**

Objective: Prepare girls for paper making project.

Time Allotment: 10 minutes

Discussion:

1. Where do you use the most paper?
2. What do you do with your papers from school? What do you do with your papers at home?
3. What could you do with the paper that ends up on the ground, in the trash or under the bed?
4. Did you know that we can make new paper from used paper? What could we use this new paper for?
5. What if we made new paper and sent people cards made from this paper? Who would you like to send a card to? What could we put on it so they would know we made the paper? (Recycling symbol.)
6. Next week, bring some paper from school or from home and we will use it to make paper and make cards from the paper.

## **Session 2: Paper Making**

Objective: Create new paper from old school papers.

Time Allotment: 45 minutes

Materials:

- Scrap paper &/or newspaper
- Blender or wire whisk
- Water
- Bucket
- Big square pan that's at least 8 cm deep
- Piece of window screen that fits inside the pan or small picture frame
- Iron or rolling pin
- Measuring cup
- Tea towels
- Vegetable scraps or dye for color

Creative Activity:

1. Tear the scrap paper into tiny pieces and soak them in a bucket of hot water for about 30 minutes.
2. Put a handful of the soaked paper into the blender and mix until mush. Or if using a whisk, beat the mixture until it is a creamy pulp. Add a small amount of vegetable scraps or dye for color (or leaves for texture).
3. Pour the blended pulp into a measuring cup. Pour roughly 3 cm of water into the pan. Put the screen into the pan and pour one cup of the paper pulp onto the screen.
4. Spread the pulp evenly in the water with your fingers. It should feel kind of mushy. Lift the screen and let the water drain.
5. Lay the pulp-covered screen face down on a cloth (tea towel) or in between some newspaper. Lift the screen away, leaving the paper pulp on the cloth. Cover with another cloth and iron with a hot iron, or use a rolling pin to flatten and press out excess moisture. Let the pulp dry for at least 24 hours.
6. Once it's dry, use the newly made paper to create greeting cards for your friends and family, or use it to write a letter to your local councilperson, encouraging more recycling in your community.

Note: Allow paper to dry between sessions.

## **Session 3: Making Cards and/or Stationary**

Objective: Create cards and/or stationary

Time Allotment: 30–45 minutes

Materials Needed:

- Paper from Session Two
- Paints, crayons, markers, etc.
- Ribbon
- Other craft items

Creative Activity:

Using the homemade paper, girls can make cards for people in the community they care about. They may want to practice on separate paper first. Girls can use paints and markers, and make stamps out of sponges.

Paper can also be collected into groupings, tied with string or straw, and given away as stationary. Remind girls to mark it with the recycled symbol. They may also want to include instructions on how to make such paper.

## **Session 4: Recycling Circle**

Objective: Girls think about recycling and how it affects everyday life.

Time Allotment: 15 minutes

Materials Needed:

- Recycled items

Preparation Needed:

- Ask girls to bring an item from home that has the recycle symbol on it.

Sharing Circle:

Girls share their item from home that has the recycle symbol on it, or an item from home that they plan to recycle. They may also share one way they plan to recycle in the future.