



Papermaking with Plants

History of Papermaking: The earliest record of papermaking is 2,000 years ago in China when inventor, Ts'ai Lu, a Chinese court official, used plant fibers to make paper. Now paper is made from harvested trees and processed in paper mills.

Materials:

- plants
- blender
- large tub/mixing tray
- wood frame with a screen stapled to it
- cloth/felt
- plant shears

Instructions:

1. Cut postage-sized plant sections with shears
2. Soak plant fibers in warm water for a few hours
3. Boil plant fibers in a pot of water until they decompose (can take several hours)
4. Remove the plant fibers and rinse under clean water in a strainer
5. Place plant fibers in a blender and cover with water. Blend together.
6. Pour the pulp into a large tub or sink (with plug) until it is half-way full.
7. Dip the deckle (picture frame with screen) into the pulp mixture and then raise it at a 45 degree angle so excess water drips out.
8. Place a cloth (like an old tshirt) down next to the tub and then carefully remove the paper onto the cloth by flipping the deckle upside down.
9. Allow the paper mixture to dry in the sun and voila—you'll have made your own paper!

For step-by-step video instructions:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=89&v=jzps7M5neVw&feature=emb_logo

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