



Editor's Note:

I thought I was being environmentally responsible. I recycle. I take quick showers. But I didn't realize the toilet paper I bought came partly from old-growth forests. Argh! We all love the planet in different ways. But I am changing my habits. Happy Earth Day!
—Erin Kelly

Reading Objective: Learn how a company saves trees by making recycled toilet paper.

Next Generation Science Standard

ESS3.A: Natural Resources

National Science Education Standard

Humans and the Environment

Vocabulary: absorbent, pulp, recycle

LESSON PLAN

Before Reading

Previewing Main Ideas (RI.2.2)

- Tell students they can learn a lot about an article's topic and how it is organized by reading the text features.
- Ask students to look at the headline on page 2 ("From Homework to Toilet Paper"). What does this suggest the story is about? (how homework becomes toilet paper)
- Then ask them to look at the bold text below the headline (Learn how a company . . .), and the section headings in green. What hints do these offer? (The article tells how to make toilet paper; it's organized into steps.)

During Reading

Compare and Contrast Related Texts (RI.2.9)

- This month's *Science Spin* is paired with a *Scholastic News* feature about recycling. Guide students to think about the similarities and differences between the two articles. Their initial observations will probably be concrete and simple. (Both are about recycling, etc.)
- Prompt students to find more differences between the articles. (*Science Spin* reports on a complete process; *Scholastic News* describes part of the process, etc.)
- Optional: Use a Venn diagram on chart paper or the board to chart similarities and differences.

After Reading

STEM Activity: Recycled Pulp Paper Bowls

This project blends art and science and makes a nice Mother's Day gift. Rather than using recycled paper pulp to make new paper, students use handmade pulp to make keepsake bowls. (Note: This project takes several days.)

Materials: old paper (newspaper is good), colander, plastic bowl for each student, white glue, petroleum jelly, paint

Procedure:

1. Have students rip paper into 1" pieces. Each student will need about 3 cups of torn paper.
2. Soak the ripped paper bits in hot water overnight.
3. The next day, have students squeeze and mash the paper to make pulp.
4. Use the colander to drain the water from the pulp.
5. Stir in about a half cup of glue for every 3 cups of pulp.
6. Coat the outside of each plastic bowl mold with petroleum jelly.
7. Pat small handfuls of pulp onto the *outside* of the plastic bowls until they are fully covered with pulp.
8. Allow pulp to dry for at least three days.
9. When the pulp is fully dry, remove the plastic bowls. Then paint and decorate the paper bowls.

Fun Facts to Share!

- Toilet paper was first used by the Chinese more than 1,000 years ago.
- French royalty used lace instead of toilet paper; early Americans used corn cobs.
- Packaged toilet paper wasn't sold in the U.S. until 1857.

Online Resources

www.scholastic.com/sciencespin2

Video: It Came From a Tree

Game: Toilet Paper Game Show

To reach the editor, email sciencespin2@scholastic.com.



Question Quest!



Students are often asked to answer questions about an article. Careful readers look back at the article to find answers to the questions. Instead of writing answers, can you write **questions** about the article? A sample has been done for you.

Sample: [Write a question about Step 1.] What does the
paper pulp look like?

1. [Write a question about Step 2.] _____

2. [Write a question about Step 3.] _____

3. [Write a question about Step 5.] _____

4. [Write a question about a photo and caption.] _____

★ Bonus

[Write an opinion question, such as “What did you think about . . . ?”]
