

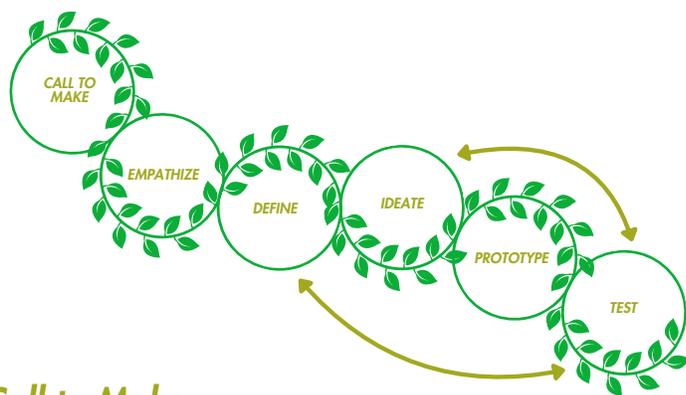
Seed Paper for Pollinators

What if you could grow pollinator friendly flowers from recycled paper? In this activity, we will learn how to recycle paper into pollinator paper.

Setup

Make sure you are able to work on a flat surface and have paper towels nearby to clean up any excess water that might spill. Have your bowl have water in it already before you start.

Content



Call to Make

Did you ever wonder how paper is made and how it can be recycled? Imagine if you could grow more food from your paper plates? How would that help with food insecurities around the world?

Empathize

Why do we use paper? List as many utilisations of paper as you can. How could you make this paper, still have its primary purpose and also help the environment?

Define

Where does your paper come from? Calculate the carbon footprint of your empty cereal box. Did you ever try growing food indoors, did it work? Why are pollinators important? How does pollination work? What do pollinators need?



Skills

- Problem Solving
- Innovation / Sustainability

Materials

- Paper
- Eco friendly food colorant
- Seeds
- Paper towel
- Coffee filters
- Crayons
- Plate
- Spoon



Ideate

We are sure that you have heard the expression, the grass always seems greener on the other side, but is it really? Why do we have grass in our yards? What does grass do for our climate? How can we change perceptions on what makes a yard beautiful? What would you plant that would help the environment and pollinators? What needs does your soil have? How can you use paper for positive climate action?

Prototype

Let's recycle paper from our home. Gather your materials. Cut up your paper in thin strips. Let the paper soak in a small bowl of lukewarm water. When your paper gets mushy, play around with it using your hands. Make it into a paste. You can then add water and put it in a blender, at this stage this should be more watery than pasty. You can also add some eco friendly dye to change the color of your paper.

Add in your desired seeds. Remove some of the excess water by using a screen, you can make your own screen or even use a coffee filter.

Flatten your paste and create your desired shape.

Once the water is out, you can add more seeds on top of your paper and push them in.

Let it air dry!

Finish your paper creation by adding artwork to it.

Test

Grow it! Don't forget to follow the instructions for specific flowers.

Their needs are all different!

Did your flowers grow? Did the pollinators seem to like them?

Teachable Moments

Math

How will you measure the ingredients? What are the ratios of the ingredients? How much paper did you need to make the pulp? What was the volume of the pulp? How much money will you save by using recycled paper?

Science

Calculate the carbon footprint of your new paper and compare it to the paper from the store. How will using seed paper have a smaller environmental impact than using regular paper? What seeds will grow well in your environment? Find the most efficient way to water and feed the seeds. What is the best sun exposure/fertilizer mixture? Try different methods on each plant to figure out which work best!

Visual Arts

Decorate your paper to turn it into a card, or a beautiful piece of art! What colour will you make your seed paper? How could you place the seeds in your paper in order to grow a rainbow? What seeds will you need?

Language Arts

How can you get people involved in your new project? Write an email to your city council/school/local businesses outlining the benefits of your product to see if they would like to collaborate. Use your paper to write a letter or card to a friend or family member. Use your seeds to make someone smile! Send out the seeds with a nice note to a nursing home or a friend.

Music

Listen to music as you decorate your seed paper - how does it influence your artwork? How does music influence your plant growth? How does music affect pollinators?

Physical Education

Plant your seed paper in your community! Go for a walk, to see what would be the best spot to plant. Challenge yourself by carrying bags of dirt or watering cans! Gardening is a great exercise.



Teachable Moments

Social Studies

List some problems in your life or your community that this method of recycling could solve. Where should you plant the seeds to have a more impactful effect on your community? Is there someone in the community who is already doing something like your project - could you collaborate and develop each other's work?



Health

You could use your seeds to start a community garden, giving access to fresh healthy foods to people in your community. How will this help the health of the planet? How can you use seed paper to improve access to sustainable food options? What seeds would be best to plant if we want to get the most nutritional value?

Technology, Education, and Engineering

How did engineering factor into your design? Build a structure to have your paper dry quicker without harming the seeds.

Take it Further

Make a business model for your seed paper business (to sell the paper or the artwork made with the paper, or the flowers/food grown from the seeds). Is there a local market or store that would be willing to sell your product? Create a public green space for leisure in a sustainable way. You could ask your city council for permission to plant your flowers in a local park.

Glossary

Ratio

To measure quantity - the amount of times one value fits into the other.

Community Garden

Plots of land gardened by multiple members of the community.



Resources

Make Mushroom Paper



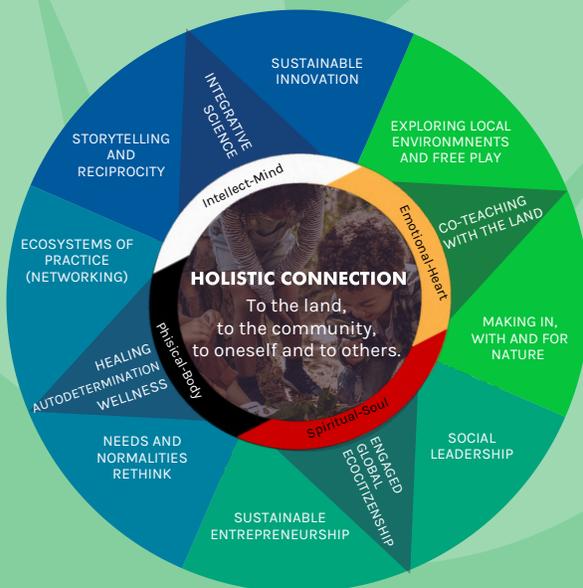
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sa1Y_SWVICA



**Learning continuum:
Sustainable Innovation Through Holistic Connection**

Based on three emerging pedagogies* and in recognition of indigenous knowledge, the natural maker educational continuum aims to support the learner through a holistic journey of connection to the earth, the community, oneself and others, in order to evolve globally towards a more open, humble, democratic and decolonized way of thinking, learning and living.

* wild pedagogies, conscious pedagogies and decolonization of education



#EarthDayforNature

#ActForEarth #ClimateAction

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