



KEEP TRUCKEE MEADOWS  
**BEAUTIFUL**

**PAPERMAKING INSTRUCTIONS**

Materials – Can get through KTMB:

- Molds
- Deckles
- Screens
- Sponges
- Felt Squares (pre-cut)
- Roll of Felt and scissors
- 3 Black Tubs
- Pulp (pre-blended)
- Paper Strips (soaked overnight)
- Blender
- Pitcher
- Colander/Strainer
- Plastic scoops (Tupperware dishes)
- Bag of Glitter
- Tarp
- Masking Tape and marker
- Phone Book (for demonstration)
- Drying Kit (wooden contraptions, wood planks)
- Examples of recycled paper

Preparation – Needs to be completed 1 day before papermaking:

1. Soak paper strips overnight: Tear phonebook or newspaper pages into 1-inch-wide strips, let soak in bucket of warm water overnight. To blend the strips into pulp the next day, fill blender 1/3 with paper strips, 1/3 with water. Blend on high until the mixture is as smoothly-blended as possible. Empty pulp into new bucket, and continue this process with the rest of the soaked paper strips.
2. If possible, begin soaking more paper strips to take with you to the presentation, in case you need to blend more pulp on-site.
3. Cut felt into squares slightly larger than the mold (roughly 10"x13"). Be sure to cut at least one square for every expected participant at the presentation. It's always better to have more pre-cut squares than not enough!
4. Gather all needed materials for the presentation...



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Instructions for Papermaking:

1. Set-up.
  - i. Spread tarp underneath area where papermaking will be done.
  - ii. Prepare 1-2 tubs with pulp (1 tub per ~20 participants). Scoop two to three bowls of pulp into tub. Add water to the tub, stirring often. The resulting pulp mixture should be thick enough that some paper bits stick to your hand when you run it through the mix, but watery enough that the paper bits are not clumping together. Sprinkle glitter into tubs, as desired.
  - iii. Lay out molds, deckles, screens, sponges, and felt squares.
  - iv. If appropriate (at fairs, festivals, etc.), hang KTMB banner.
2. Introduction. Use the Papermaking Discussion as a guideline to introduce the concept of papermaking, the value of recycling, etc.
3. Demonstration. Make one piece of paper as a demonstration, explaining the steps and names of the materials as you go:
  - i. Make a “Deckle Sandwich”. The deckle goes on the bottom, screen-side up. On top of the deckle put a screen. On top of the screen put a mold. Hold all three together and show students the Deckle Sandwich.
  - ii. Dip the deckle sandwich into the pulp, letting pulp fill in the open space in the mold. Gently move the sandwich back and forth to ensure an even, thin layer of pulp. Slowly lift the sandwich out of the pulp, holding it above the pulp to let the excess water drain off. (You may have to help it along at this point, shaking the water out, moving bits of paper, separating clumps, etc.)
  - iii. When most of the excess water has been drained off, place the entire deckle sandwich on the table/floor next to the tubs. Gently remove the mold. Place a felt square over the pulp and press down lightly, so that the felt soaks in a little of the moisture.
  - iv. Holding the remaining deckle sandwich together (deckle, screen, pulp, felt), flip it over so that the felt square is on the bottom. Remove the deckle. Place a sponge over the screen, and press down on the sponge to soak up the remaining water. Repeat this step, moving the sponge each time so that the entire area of the screen has been sponged. Wring sponge out back into black tub.



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- v. When most of the moisture has been soaked up by the sponge, gently peel back the screen from the pulp. What is left (pulp and felt) will become your paper – the pulp will dry on the felt, and then can be removed from the felt and used as paper! Label the felt with masking tape and a magic marker, and set aside to dry.
4. Allow students to each make a piece of paper. Help them as they go, or have students or leaders help each other, depending on students' age and maturity. Be sure to have a space for students to lay their completed papers to dry.
5. Use Drying Kit to speed drying process. Once all students have made their piece of paper, pile the papers one on top of another, and put an extra felt square over the top piece. Over an empty black tub, place the stack of papers and felt in between the two wooden drying contraptions and tighten the screws. Let the whole assemblage stand on its side in the tub, allowing water to drip off the papers and into the tub. Let this sit while you clean up. Before leaving the presentation, unscrew the Drying Kit and give the papers to a teacher/leader to lay out to finish drying (often requires drying overnight, unless it is outside in sunlight). Offer business card to leader for thank-you notes or to schedule future presentations. Ask adults to fill out sign-in sheet for inclusion on our mailing list.
6. Clean up. Use the colander/strainer to retrieve as much pulp as possible from the tubs and put it back into the buckets. If possible, dump the remaining dirty water down janitor's drain or industrial sink. Rinse off molds, deckles, and screens. Use sponges to wipe down tables, floors, and tarp. Look around for extra paper bits on the ground. Pack up all the materials, and bring back to KTMB. Excess pulp can be frozen in Zip-loc bags to store for later without getting moldy and smelly.