

# Make a recycled greeting card

Create a card using home-made paper for Valentine's Day or Mother's Day.

## What you need

- 1 wire coat hanger
- 1 pair of old tights
- 1 elastic band
- About three sheets of A4 scrap paper, torn up into small pieces
- Large mixing bowl
- Water
- Spoon
- 1 tbsp of PVA (white) glue
- Paper towels
- Baking tray
- Plastic carrier bag
- Rolling pin
- Felt-tip pens, pencils etc.

## How does it work?

Most paper is made from tiny strands of wood stuck together. When paper is recycled, no new trees are cut down. Instead, old paper is soaked in water and shredded in an industrial pulper. In this activity, you do this bit by hand.

This causes the wood fibres to separate, as well as washing out ink and other impurities, such as metal staples. Adding glue will stick the strands back together, and rolling and drying the pulp transforms it into new sheets of paper.



**1** Bend the wire hanger into a square, then pull one of the legs of the tights over it to create a screen. Hold it in place with the elastic band.



**2** Put the torn-up paper in a bowl and cover with water. Leave for an hour until it is soggy and then shred it by hand. Add the glue and mix well.



**3** Place a few sheets of paper towel onto an upside-down baking tray and lay the screen on top. Spoon the paper-pulp mixture onto the screen.



**4** Cover the mixture with a plastic bag and use a rolling pin to flatten it. Spread out the pulp to cover the whole screen evenly.



**5** Peel away the bag and leave the paper to dry. This may take a few days but once it is ready you can carefully lift the paper off the screen.



**6** Trim your paper, fold it down the middle and decorate it using pens, pencils and offcuts of your recycled paper. Finally, add your message.