

GROW CARDS



Materials

- Newspaper
- Window screen
- Large plastic or foil pan
- Water
- Cookie cutters
- Blender
- Flower seeds (larger seeds that are more easily seen are best for this project.)

Note: for this activity you will need to make a screen frame. Staple window screen to a wood frame or attach the screen to an embroidery hoop.

DIRECTIONS

Have your students ever received a greeting card for a special occasion? Have they ever planted it? Now students can recycling newspaper into a plantable greeting card!

Directions:

1. Tear paper into postage stamp-sized pieces.
2. Fill a blender half full with scraps and $\frac{3}{4}$ full of water (Figure 1).
3. Blend mixture at high speed until the mixture has an oatmeal-like consistency.
4. Choose a cookie cutter shape and place the cutter on the screen frame, screen side down.
5. Hold the frame over a large pan. Pour the blended paper pulp into the cutter so a thin layer completely fills it (Figure 2).
6. Sprinkle seeds onto the pulp (Figure 3). Gently press them into the pulp so they won't fall off when the paper dries.
7. Place the screen on a towel and carefully remove the cutter. Firmly press another towel on top of the paper to remove most of the remaining water (Figure 4).

Extensions:

- Make a hanging ornament by tying ribbon or raffia to the card.
- Fold an 8" x 6" rectangle of kraft or construction paper in half. Attach your grow card to the front. Now you've made a special, decorative notecard.
- Experiment by combining of different types and colors of papers when blending the pulp.
- Have students write a short explanation of what a "Grow Card" is and how to plant it. This can be neatly written on the back of the card so the recipient will know what to do with it.

Figure 1:



Figure 2:

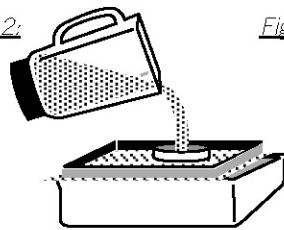


Figure 3:

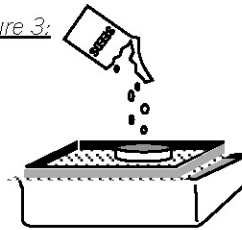


Figure 4:

