

ACTIVITY 6

Paper Audit

Suggested Learning Intentions:

To encourage pupils to:

- Focus on the impact of paper production on the environment
- Consider how much paper each pupil uses and how this can be reduced

Connected Learning Opportunities:

KS3: Environment and Society: Geography

KS3: Learning for Life and Work: Local and Global Citizenship; Personal Development

KS3: Mathematics & Numeracy: Number, Shape, space and Measure

Thinking Skills & Personal Capabilities:

Managing information, Working with others

Cross-Curricular Skills:

Communication, Using ICT, Using Mathematics.

Eco-Schools

This is an ideal activity if your school is focusing on the topic of Waste/ Energy or Climate change. By working out paper audits it could also be a useful tool in collecting baseline data and monitoring your schools progress on the Eco-Schools programme.

↓ Reduce Activity



ACTIVITY 6 - PAPER AUDIT



Class activity:

The teacher may present their class with the following facts:

1. Every year in Northern Ireland, on average, each household needs more than three trees to provide the paper it uses.
2. We currently recycle about 40 per cent of our waste paper with the rest going to landfill. This figure should be higher because paper is one of the easiest materials to recycle.
3. By recycling 1 ton of paper you save:
 - 17 trees
 - 31,600 litres of water
 - 2,100 litres of oil
 - 266 kilos of air pollution
 - 2.5 cubic metres of landfill space
 - 4077 Kilowatt hours of energy

(More information may be found at
www.ecoworld.org.uk/eco_topics/waste/facts.asp)

Pupils should be encouraged to discuss these facts and their implications.



Classroom paper audit

In notebooks or if preferred on computer, pupils will draw a table with three columns. In the first column they list all the paper products they use in a school day. In the second column they note what these items are used for. In the third they write down ways to reduce the amount used or other more environmentally friendly alternatives.

Extension activity:

To try to bring the scale of the figures above to life, pupils should be encouraged to put them into context by performing a series of simple mathematical equations. For example, work out how big a container would be needed to take the volume of water used in 1 ton of paper; how many light bulbs can be illuminated by the amount of energy used to create 1 ton of paper; how high 17 trees would be and what building is approximately that size.

Finally:

The teacher initiates the discussion of these ideas and encourages pupils to decide on an Action Plan to implement some of their ideas in their classroom.

