



Longwood Center for the Visual Arts  
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**Professional Development Teacher Workshop**  
*Paper Making with Mackenzie Lenhart*  
March 3, 2023

**Lesson: Where Does Paper Come From?**  
**Grade level: Third Grade**  
**Time to complete: 2 class periods**

**Description:**

The packet enclosed provides resources to include in classroom learning to tackle History SOLs 3.1 a,b,e & 3.2, Visual Art SOLs 3.6 a & c, 3.7, and 4.8. The lessons provided will focus on where paper comes from and the culture behind paper making in the ancient Chinese civilization. The instructional lesson provided focuses on looking at maps of ancient China and making predictions as to how goods and services were exchanged. In addition, the lesson contains a short lesson to connect the cultural implication of ancient China to the lesson of where paper comes from.

**Accommodations:**

Lessons can be altered for any age group, budget and could be altered to meet any IEP accommodations. An example of this could be instead of using a stapler, students could use glue sticks.

<b>Goals</b>	<b>Virginia Standards of Learning</b>
<b>Social Studies</b>	<p><b>3.1</b> Students will demonstrate skills for historical thinking, geographical analysis, economic decision making, and responsible citizenship by...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Identifying artifacts and primary and secondary sources to understand events in world cultures;</li> <li>b) Using geographic information to support an understanding of world cultures;</li> <li>e) Explaining connections across time and place;</li> </ul> <p><b>3.2</b> Student will explain how the contributions of ancient China have influenced the present world in terms of architecture, government (direct and representative democracy), and sports</p>
<b>Visual Arts</b>	<p><b>3.6</b> The student will explore and examine cultural and historical influences of art.</p>

	<p>a) Identify how history, culture, and the visual arts influence each other.</p> <p>b) Examine the relationship between form and function in the artifacts of a culture.</p> <p>3.7 The students will determine reasons why art has value to people and communities.</p> <p>4.8 Students will give credit to sources used in art research.</p>
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**Supplies and Materials:**

- Access to YouTube or the ability to download one video
- Maps provided in packet
- Construction paper or any sort of paper available
- Scissors
- Tape, stapler, or glue stick (age-appropriate material)
- Ruler
- Pencil

**Key Terms:**

Paper mill- a factory that only makes paper

Dynasty- a line of people from the same family who rule over a particular area.

Lunar New Year- the celebration of the start of spring and the beginning of the new year on a lunar calendar. Celebrated by numerous cultures and regions, also one of the most important holidays in China.

Tradition- the handing down of information, ideas, and customs from generation to generation.

Festival- a time of celebration with certain traditions.

**Teaching Procedure:**

Introduction:

We use paper in our everyday lives. Think all the paper you have used today. Did you use a paper towel? Did you take notes today?

Play this Brain Pop Junior: [https://youtu.be/1W16KqHn\\_WI](https://youtu.be/1W16KqHn_WI)

First Activity:

With a group brainstorm all the kinds of paper you can think of and be ready to share it with the class. Make this a competition amongst groups or make it just a brainstorm.

Teacher should keep a list on board or have students shout out how many they thought of.

Examples include:

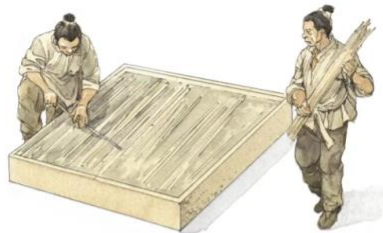
- Paper towels
- Tissue paper
- Construction paper
- Lined paper
- Graph paper

Main Lesson:

1. Introduce the map of Ancient China.  
Point out different land features on the map discussed in the video. Some may be the different mountain ranges, the great wall of China, and the different rivers.
2. Introduce who was the first person to make paper.  
About 2,000 years ago a new form of communication was established. Paper in the ancient civilizations were made for record drawings and writings. The first person to make paper was a Chinese court official by the name of Ts'ai Lun in the city of Lei-Yang, China. Ts'ai Lun created paper by mixing mulberry bark, hemp, and old rags with water. When he mixed the ingredients together, he mashed it to pulp and pressed out all the liquid. When the mixture was pressed, he hung the thin mat in the sun to dry. This is how paper was made.
3. Explain that it took another 300 years for Ts'ai's discovery to reach what we now call the Middle East and another 500 years for the discovery to reach Europe.  
Show a map of Europe and the Middle East and talk about what land features the paper had to travel over to reach these countries.
4. Show the picture of an ancient paper mill provided on this page. Discuss how many people would have to work there. Explain that one of the first paper mills was built in Spain and the first paper mill in the United States was built in the 1690s in Pennsylvania.
5. Discuss that at first American paper mills used the Chinese method of making paper by using old rags but as the demand grew, they started using fibers from wood. The wood was more abundant and was less expensive.



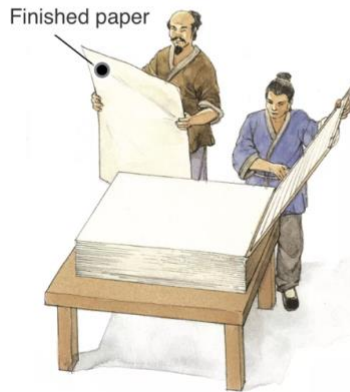
1. Cutting bamboo



2. Soaking



3. Screen dipped in pulp



4. Paper is pressed and dried

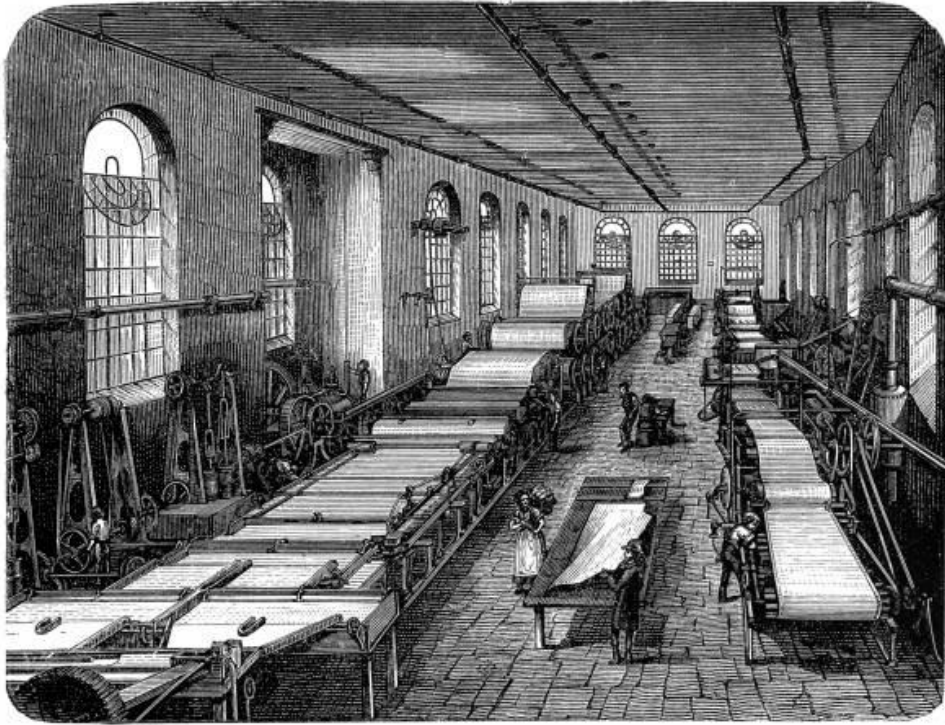
**Process of making paper with bamboo**

“Fun Facts for Kids on Animals, Earth, History and More!” *DK Find Out!*, [www.dkfindout.com/](http://www.dkfindout.com/)

[us/history/ancient-china/chinese-paper-making/](http://us/history/ancient-china/chinese-paper-making/).



“Ancient China.” *Info Skills*, [www.costellohsie.info/ancient-china.html](http://www.costellohsie.info/ancient-china.html).



**Ancient Paper Mill**

Nastasic, et al. "Detail from the Paper Factory Stock Illustration." *Getty Images*,  
[www.gettyimages.com/photos/old-paper-mill](http://www.gettyimages.com/photos/old-paper-mill).

Next Class Period:

1. Review what was learned on the previous day and start with the activity.
2. Once completed the activity discuss the importance of these paper lanterns to the Chinese culture: In ancient China paper lanterns were used as a source of light. In the ancient Eastern Han Dynasty people would surround a candle bamboo and cover in paper. The paper would make it so the flame wouldn't blow out from the wind. Soon word of the paper lanterns made to other countries. A tradition began during the Tang Dynasty, where on the fifteenth day of the lunar new the country would celebrate with a festival.

Conclusion:

- What country does paper come from?
- How do the Chinese celebrate the new Lunar New Year?
- Why is paper important?
- How did the paper get to other countries?
- Why did people use lanterns?

## Activity How to Make a Chinese Paper Lantern

### Materials:

- Construction paper or any sort of paper needed
- Scissors
- Tape, staples, or glue stick (age-appropriate material)
- Ruler
- Pencil



### Step 1:

#### Select Paper

Choosing paper is important depending on size, budget, and quantity. The example provided is made from 1 sheet of construction paper.

### Step 2:

Use your ruler to measure  $\frac{1}{2}$ " on short side of paper and then cut it off.

### Step 3:

Then fold the sheet of paper in half lengthwise or hamburger style.

### Step 4:

Once the paper is folded measure another  $\frac{1}{2}$ " on the open side, then on the folded side measure  $\frac{1}{2}$ " and connect them to the line you just drew.

### Step 5:

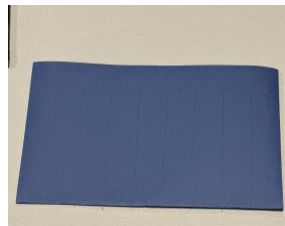
Cut each of the lines on the folded side and stop when you get to the line at the top.

### Step 6:

Unfold your paper and bring the two edges together and secure with the age-appropriate material. The material used for the example was glue stick but you can use a glue stick or tape.

### Step 7:

Use previously cut strip and attach like a handle. Either send this home as table centerpiece or hang it as classroom decoration.



## References:

“Ancient China.” *Info Skills*, [www.costellohsie.info/ancient-china.html](http://www.costellohsie.info/ancient-china.html).

“Chinese Paper Lanterns.” *Aunt Annie's Crafts*,  
[www.auntannie.com/PartyDecorations/ChineseLantern/](http://www.auntannie.com/PartyDecorations/ChineseLantern/).

“Fun Facts for Kids on Animals, Earth, History and More!” *DK Find Out!*,  
[www.dkfindout.com/us/history/ancient-china/chinese-paper-making/](http://www.dkfindout.com/us/history/ancient-china/chinese-paper-making/).

“The History of Paper.” *The History of Paper | American Forest and Paper Association*, 9 July 2021, [www.afandpa.org/news/2021/history-paper#:~:text=About%20%2C000%20years%20ago%2C%20inventors,Lun%2C%20a%20Chinese%20court%20official.](http://www.afandpa.org/news/2021/history-paper#:~:text=About%20%2C000%20years%20ago%2C%20inventors,Lun%2C%20a%20Chinese%20court%20official.)

Nastasic, et al. “Detail from the Paper Factory Stock Illustration.” *Getty Images*,  
[www.gettyimages.com/photos/old-paper-mill](http://www.gettyimages.com/photos/old-paper-mill).

## Additional Resources for Teachers:

- <http://www.historyofpaper.net/>
- <https://theculturetrip.com/asia/china/articles/brief-history-chinese-lanterns/>
- <https://prezi.com/utsph4ra40gp/ancient-china-the-environment/#:~:text=Some%20of%20the%20Natural%20Resources,animals%20were%20hunted%20for%20food.>
- <https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/resource-library-ancient-civilization-china>
- <https://www.christianbook.com/page/homeschool/history/world-history/ancient-china>