

Woody's

# Paper Caper

Trees provide homes for animals – and they also provide people with the material to make paper! Collect the paper you use in a week – then figure out a way to use it again.



**What you need**

Large container, Paper or posterboard, Crayons and markers

**Time**

20 minutes to design containers  
**1 week to collect paper**  
 20 minutes to reuse paper



**Get Ready!** Set aside a place to store the collected paper.

**1 Get Started** by talking about where paper comes from. Talk about how important it is for people to plant new trees to replace the ones they cut down. Tell children that they're going to find out just how much paper they use in a single week.

**2** Show children the containers set aside for used paper collection. Explain that they are to put all the paper (and only paper) that they use into the containers. Decorate the containers with bright signs that say "Paper Only!" or "Woody's Paper Caper Container."

**3** After 1 week, gather children around the containers of paper. Are they surprised at the amount of paper they used in a week? Try to guess how much paper you would go through in a month. For instance, if you used two containers in 1 week, you could help children work through the following equation:  $2+2+2+2=8$ . Older children may want to estimate how much paper they would use in a month or a year. Have children add the figure for a week four times, to determine a month. Have them add the figure for a single month 12 times or use a calculator to multiply by 12.

**Tip:** Let everyone in your classroom, school, or after-school center know that they should put their used paper into the containers.

**4 Close** by thinking of a fun, creative way to reuse the week's worth of paper. Children can make notepads for themselves, or as gifts for friends and family members. Simply punch holes in a small stack of paper and bind it together with yarn. Talk with children about ways to reduce the amount of paper they use. One easy way is to always use both sides of the paper.

Construction paper, paper cups, paper plates, tissue paper, toilet paper, paper towels, wrapping paper, and newspaper all come from trees!

**MAKE THE PAPER CAPER PERMANENT**

Set up a permanent paper collecting container in your after-school center or classroom. Make signs to let everyone know that the paper is going to be recycled. Children can use the paper they collect for other art projects. Or, save the paper and use it for the compost in activity 9.



Encourage children to set up Woody's Paper Caper containers at home, too.

Try this activity with activities 2 (Meet the Trees) and 11 (Deliver Woody's Message).

