


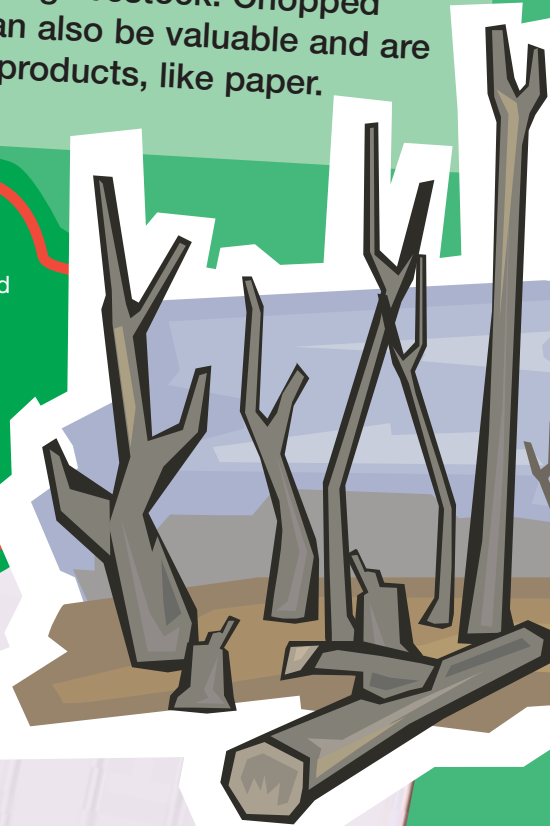
DISASTROUS DEFORESTATION



Deforestation is the process of cutting down trees for other uses like growing crops and raising livestock. Chopped down trees can also be valuable and are sold to make products, like paper.

Did you know?

- The Amazon is the largest rainforest in the world covering some 7 million square kilometres. Do you know where it is?
- Close to 20% of the Amazon Rainforest has been lost to deforestation in only the last 40 years.



Why is Deforestation a problem for Earth Heroes?

- Deforestation is devastating to plants and animals which live in the forests. When the trees are cut down the animals lose their habitat and die out.
- It's likely then that deforestation is causing the extinction of lots of animal and plant types, many of which haven't even been discovered yet! Undiscovered plant types could hold the key to treating a range of diseases!
- Deforestation leads to increased flooding of nearby areas because there are no trees to absorb rainfall.
- Deforestation is normally done by burning the trees to the ground. This releases huge amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, which adds to global warming – there's more about carbon and climate in your tool kit.



Does this happen here in Scotland and the United Kingdom? Deforestation happened here in the past but now we are more aware of the impacts and are planting more trees.



What can I do to become an Earth Hero?

- **Recycle paper**

Recycling paper at home or at school means fewer trees need to be cut down for paper production.

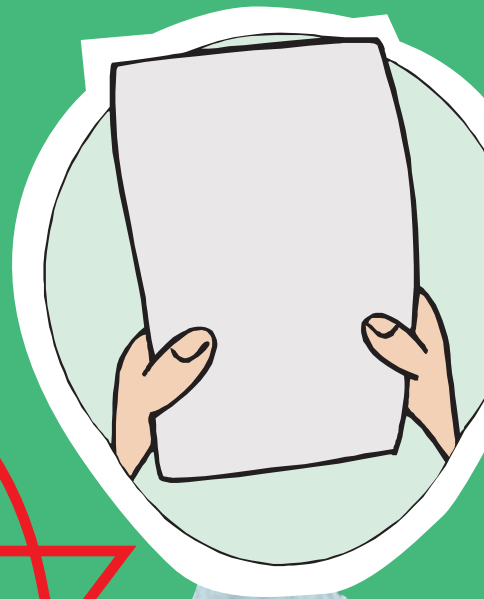
Or

- **Plant a new tree**

Or

- **Make your own recycled paper**

If you are a very adventurous Earth Hero you could try making your very own recycled paper using old newspapers and other used bits & pieces. Check out the instructions below! Recycling paper uses plant fibres over and over again.



You will need:

- An adult Earth Hero to help
- An iron
- An old pair of tights
- Newspaper or other paper, torn into 2-inch squares
- A big sink or tub filled with 4 inches of water
- A place to work where it's ok to make a big mess!
- A food processor
- An old wire coat hanger
- PVA glue

Step 1 Make a frame. Stretch the hanger and bend it into a square shape. Take one leg of the tights and stretch it tightly over the hanger frame.

Step 2 Put a handful of the torn up paper and some water into the food processor and blend the mixture on high until it becomes mushy. Keep adding paper and water until you have a big grey blob. Keep the food processor on until all the paper has disappeared. Then leave it on for 2 minutes.

Step 3 Put 2 tablespoons of PVA glue in the sink with the water and add all of the paper pulp you just made. Mix it really well. Use your hands.

Step 4 Place the frame to the bottom of the sink, and then lift it slowly. (Count to 20 slowly while you are lifting.) Let the water drain out for about a minute.

Step 5 Hang the frame on a clothesline or put them out in the sun. Wait until they are completely dry with no dampness at all. You can then gently peel off the paper.

Step 6 Ask your Earth Hero helper to use the iron. Set on the hottest setting and iron out your paper. You can keep making paper until the pulp is all strained out of the sink. Mix up the sink every time you make a new piece.

Step 7 Enjoy your very own recycled paper!

