

The aims of these sheets are to show:

- *very little wood is wasted in modern timber harvesting*
- *wood products are created to meet specific needs*
- *despite every effort to use wood economically, we still need to import most of our timber from other countries*

Area 39 on Sheet 22B may be described as "the former USSR" or by any other name currently in use. A list of member states countries of ITTO is on page 128. In Great Britain, the forests have slowly been cleared over the past 5000 years. The timber was needed for building, fuel and boats; and the land for agriculture. In 1919, the forest cover of Great Britain was 4%. In 1994, it covers 10%. This increase of forest cover is due mainly to the planting of conifer trees. This could provide the basis for a discussion. Does Great Britain need more forests? What are the advantages/disadvantages of planting conifers? (Refer to the article on children's (Activity Sheet 14B.)



ACTIVITY 1

You could set up a classroom display of things that need wood in their manufacture, e.g. paint, paper, dye, rayon, gum; and ask the children if they can find other things to add to the collection.



ACTIVITY 2

Collect different kinds of paper and make a display.

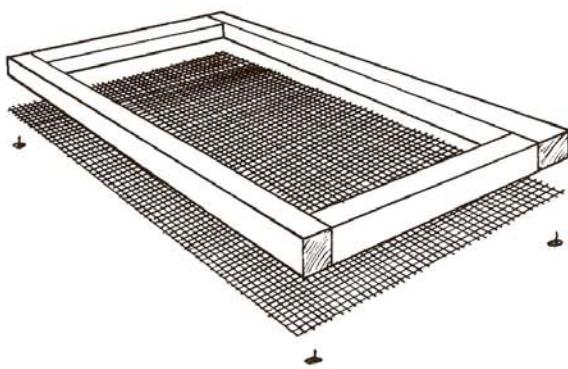
THE CHILDREN COULD INVESTIGATE:

- **which is the strongest?**
- **which is the easiest to write on?**
- **which is the most waterproof?**
- **which is transparent, translucent, opaque?**
- **which is the roughest or smoothest?**



ACTIVITY 3

Your local recycling group may be able to come into school and work with the children to recycle paper. If not, the children could plan, design and make their own frames with a removable mesh screen as shown in the diagram below:



They should collect waste paper, wool and thread, then cut or tear these materials into very small pieces and put them into a large bucket. They need to add water and laundry starch in the proportions 1 tablespoon of starch to 20 ml of water, and beat the mixture with a rotating egg whisk until it is like a thick soup. The mixture is left overnight and then the frame is dipped into it until the mesh screen is covered with a light layer

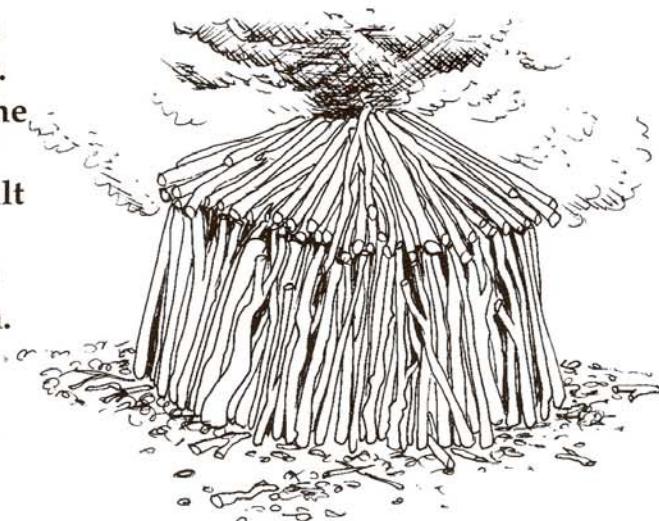
of pulp. The mesh screen is carefully removed from the frame, then pressed between two blankets weighted with bricks on the top, after which it should be left to dry for a few days.

YOU CAN ALSO MAKE PAPER USING: NEWSPAPER, BLOTTING PAPER, MAGAZINES, PAPER TOWELS, SAWDUST, RUSHES, DRIED GRASSES.



ACTIVITY 4

Charcoal is a fuel made from wood in a special kiln. It is charred but not burnt. In the past charcoal was made near to the supply of wood. Charcoal burners had to watch the kiln constantly so they built shelters nearby. Charcoal produces twice as much heat as the same amount of wood and was vital for smelting iron. Read the children the chapter from "Swallows and Amazons" by Arthur Ransome where the Swallows meet the charcoal burner.



**ACTIVITY 5**

Making charcoal in school would be difficult for safety reasons, but might be possible (and fun!) at home.



The children will need some dried-out willow twigs cut into lengths to fit into a Golden Syrup tin. The lid should have small holes punched into it. The wood in the tin should be packed in with sand around and completely covering it. The lid should be pressed down firmly and the tin heated in a bonfire.