

# Grow Cards

**Objective:** To recycle newspaper to create plantable greeting cards

**Time:** 30 minutes

**Materials:** newspaper, screen, bin, water, cookie cutters, blender, flower seed (any seed will do but larger seed that are more easily seen make the final product more attractive)

*Note - for this activity you will need to make a screen frame. You can use window screen stapled to a wooden frame or even screen over an embroidery hoop*



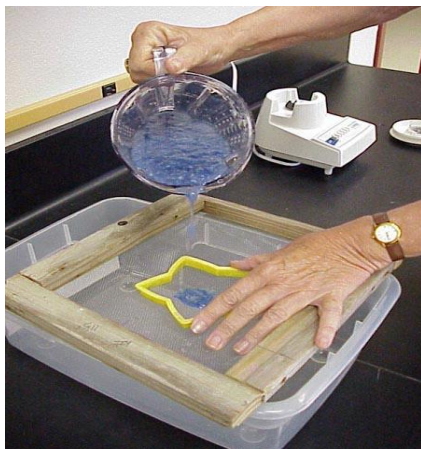
Ask youth if they have ever received a card for their birthday, Christmas or other special occasion. Then ask them if they have ever planted one of those cards in a garden. Tell them that today they are going to make a greeting card for someone they know that can be planted in the garden and will grow a plant.

Have your gather scraps of them into small size of postage

them fill a blender half full with the with water. The water and paper blended at high speed until the mixture like consistency. The gardeners can cutter shape they like and place the screen. Next, they should pour the mixture into the cutter so a thin layer of the shape. Seeds should then be mixture. Just so the seeds won't fall off of the card once the card dries, have them push the seeds into the mixture with a finger.



young gardeners paper and tear pieces about the stamps. Have scraps and 3/4 full mixture should be has an oatmeal-choose a cookie cutter onto the blended paper the mixture fills in sprinkled onto the



Place the screen with the wet paper shape onto a towel and carefully remove the cutter. Then have them lay another towel over the paper shape and firmly press to remove most of the remaining water. The paper shape with still be damp but will be strong enough to keep its form. The "Grow Card" should dry and be ready for giving in a day or two. Your "Grow Card" can be planted outside and the seeds will germinate and grow.

Ribbon or raffia can be attached to the grow card and it could then be given as a hanging ornament. Your group can also cut rectangles (about 8" long, 6" wide) out of brown paper bag, folded the paper in half and

then attach the grow card to the front. These will have a space for writing a special message on the inside.



Have your group experiment using a combination of different types and colors of papers when blending the mixture for the grow cards.

### ***In the classroom extension...***

Children can write a short paragraph explaining what a "Grow Card" is and how to plant it! Planting depth can be found on the seed packet of the seeds that they use. These can be neatly written on the back of the fold of the brown paper part of the card so the recipient will know what to do with it.



*Junior Master Gardener® Program - Level One  
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Grow Cards can be a great fund raising opportunity for schools, scouts, 4-Hers and other youth groups