

# 1. About paper

Most paper is made from trees. Did you know that one big tree must fall to provide each person in the UK with the amount of paper they need for one year? Some paper is made from recycled paper.

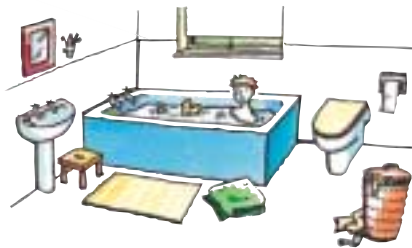
Only a little of the paper we use is writing paper. We use paper, as well as thicker and stronger **board**, for many other reasons too.

? **Discuss as a class how many paper things you have used today. Think about:**

*your schoolbag*



*the bathroom*



*your letterbox*



*the kitchen*



*the school library*



## The first paper

The Egyptians were the first civilisation to make paper - over 3500 years ago. They named it after a plant called **papyrus**.

They sliced up the plant, beat or pressed it into criss-cross layers with gum, and then rubbed it with stone to make it smooth enough to write on.



The Chinese invented the method of making paper from trees almost 2000 years ago. The

process has changed little over the years, although paper-making machines are now much larger.

England's first paper mill was working by 1500. Today, over 5 million tonnes of paper are made in England every year.

