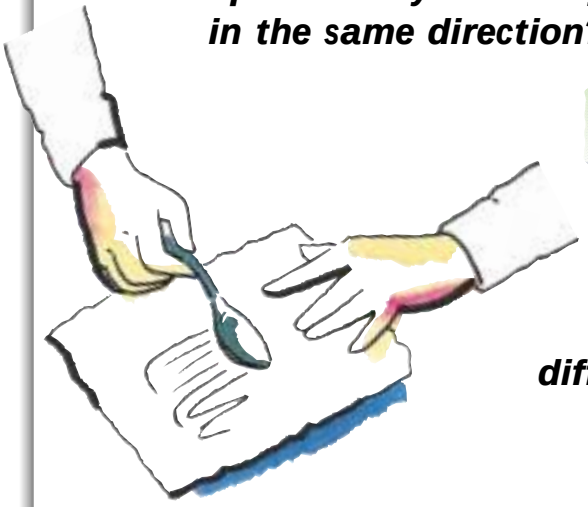
4. Paper properties

Different kinds of paper have different properties. For example, when the fibres in paper are held together loosely, the paper is soft and can soak up liquids easily. The paper in kitchen rolls is made in this way and, because it can soak up liquids, we say it is 'absorbent'. Kitchen paper is more hygienic than kitchen cloths because it can be thrown away when it has been used.

? ***How could you test the absorbency of different kinds of paper? Discuss your ideas as a class.***

? ***Look at a paper handkerchief, a piece of toilet paper or a piece of kitchen roll. Try taking it apart. Can you see layers? Do the fibres all go in the same direction?***

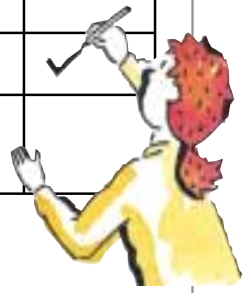


? ***Try making a dull piece of paper smooth and shiny - all you have to do is rub it with the back of a spoon. You will get different results with different kinds of paper.***

Paper uses

It makes sense to adapt paper to suit the purpose it will be put to. Look at this chart of different properties which paper can have. Put a tick in the column beneath each type of paper to show the properties it needs.

	toilet paper	*news-paper*	*art paper*	*money*	*kitchen roll*
soft					
spongy					
strong					
waterproof					
absorbent					✓
can be printed on					



The three Rs

Do you know your 3 Rs? They are **REduce, RE-use, REcycle**. *But remember to buy recycled paper products, otherwise there is little point in recycling paper in the first place!*