

Historian tip # 9: Historians seek ways to record and transmit information effectively.

Today's investigation: Chinese paper making

Outcome of the investigation: Our historians will be able to

1. rank bones, wood, silk, and paper in order of effectivity for writing, citing reasons for the ranking.
2. express advantages of using paper as a writing medium.
3. follow sequenced instructions in the art of paper making

Vocabulary: pulp

Materials: see instructions

Mini lesson: We have already seen that bones were used for some of the earliest Chinese writing. Early Chinese books were made of thin strips of wood or bamboo. Sometimes the final drafts were done on silk! By about 100 B.C., the Chinese had begun to produce paper. Before we continue, rank those four objects in order from worst to best for writing on, and be sure to write down the reasons you rank them in that order. (Brief class discussion, 1-2 minutes). Now WE are going to recreate the process of making paper. The Chinese used tree bark to make paper pulp, but in the spirit of recycling we are going to use old newspapers instead. It involves the same paper making process.

Activities: Follow instructions provided. Instructions are from www.gsusa.org/girls/why/sciact/paper/paper.htm

Connecting past to present: In your historian's notebook tonight, record every use of paper that you observe. We can see all of the reasons we have to thank the Chinese!