

BOOMbox at Home

Zucchini Papyrus

Egyptian papyrus wasn't made with a pulp, rather, by overlapping and drying strips of the papyrus reed plant. This project does the same with zucchini! By cooking and pressing strips of zucchini together, you can create bonds from the cellulose molecules.



Supplies

You will need:

- a zucchini (or other vegetable)
- a microwave-safe plastic container with a lid
- a microwave
- a knife for cutting vegetables
- newspaper
- cloths or paper towels
- a flat, heavy object, such as a dictionary
- a cutting board

Instructions

- Cut your zucchini into strips about a quarter of an inch thick.
- Fill the microwave-safe plastic container with enough water to cover the bottom and place your zucchini strips in. Secure the cover. Steam the strips in the microwave until they are soft but not falling apart. Alternatively, you can also steam the zucchini in a pot on a stovetop.
- Lay out your cutting board and place a stack of newspaper on top. On top of that, place a cloth. Lay out your zucchini strips on the cloth so that they are overlapping in a criss-cross pattern.
- Place another cloth on top and then more newspaper. Place your flat, heavy object on top of the stack. You can pile more objects above it if you feel like you need more weight.
- After an hour, replace the wet newspaper with dry newspaper. Replace the weights and let the stack sit overnight.
- In the morning, your vegetables will be flat but still wet. Replace the cloth in the stack. Do this multiple times a day until the vegetables dry. When dry, you'll have vegetable papyrus!

What will you learn today?

Send a photo of your project to mycreation@skokielibrary.info and we may feature it on social media.