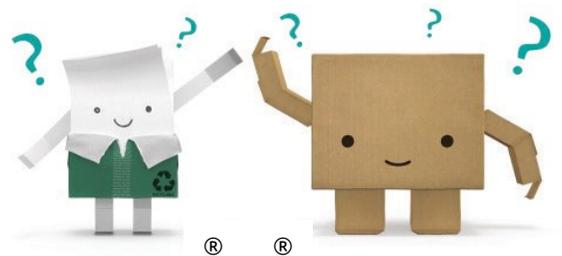


# Do You Know These Facts About Paper?

You know paper is recyclable. You know it comes from trees. But did you know that the paper industry plays an integral role in protecting the forest lands of the United States? Or that foresters grow more wood than they harvest?

Our true-false quiz will help you learn some fun facts about paper—and about its importance in caring for the planet.

- 
- T 1. Since the first Earth Day celebration in 1970, the number of trees planted in the United States has decreased by 20%.  
 F
  - T 2. Forestry is responsible for the largest supply of municipal drinking water in the country.  
 F
  - T 3. Trees in U.S. forests absorb more carbon dioxide than forestry related activities produce.  
 F
  - T 4. Americans love to recycle—we recycle paper, glass, metal and plastic equally.  
 F
  - T 5. The paper industry uses every part of the tree.  
 F
  - T 6. Paper mills typically reuse water at least 10 times before purifying and returning it to waterways.  
 F
  - T 7. There are more trees planted every day in the United States than there are people in Chicago.  
 F
  - T 8. Paper is a main cause of litter on America's beaches.  
 F
  - T 9. It's important to recycle paper because it comes from a renewable resource.  
 F
  - T 10. More than 90% of corrugated boxes and containers in the U.S. are recovered for recycling.  
 F
  - T 11. Americans are consistently getting better about not sending paper to landfills.  
 F
  - T 12. It's important to go paperless for things like bills in order to "go green."  
 F
  - T 13. Roughly half of the average corrugated cardboard box is made up of recycled materials.  
 F



# Answer Sheet

- T 1. There are actually 20% more trees in the United States today<sup>1</sup> than there were during the first Earth Day.
- F
- T 2. The paper industry helps ensure that forests are cared for<sup>2</sup>, which translates to healthy drinking water<sup>3</sup>. In fact, forest cover has been linked to lowering costs of treating drinking water. The more forests in a watershed, the less treatment needs to be done. Drink up!
- F
- T 3. This makes them effective “carbon sinks,” the term for an environment that absorbs more carbon dioxide than it releases<sup>4</sup>.
- F
- T 4. Way more paper is recycled than anything else. In fact, on average, paper and cardboard account for 66% of packaging materials recovered for recycling in the United States<sup>5</sup>.
- F
- T 5. The industry uses every part of the tree, down to its bark, which can be used to generate bioenergy. Some mills actually produce more energy than they consume thanks to biomass energy<sup>6</sup>.
- F
- T 6. Making paper uses a lot of water, but producers return most of what they use after responsible treatment<sup>7</sup>.
- F
- T 7. Every day, 3.2 million trees are planted in the country<sup>8</sup>—more than Chicago’s 2.7 million residents<sup>9</sup>.
- F
- T 8. Paper is not among the top 10 materials found in beach litter<sup>10</sup>.
- F
- T 9. It’s important to recycle paper as a part of caring for the planet. Paper is made from trees—a renewable resource—and recycled paper pulp. The forest industry grows more trees than it harvests each year<sup>11</sup>.
- F
- T 10. It’s 92%, to be precise<sup>12</sup>.
- F
- T 11. In 2018, we sent about 21.5 million tons of paper to landfills—down from 24.3 million tons in 2010<sup>13</sup>.
- F
- T 12. Don’t fall for claims like these—they are often unsubstantiated. In North America, 120 companies—including many from the Fortune 500—have clarified or removed such claims. Electronic infrastructures have an environmental footprint as well. For example, the United States collected about 22% of the country’s e-waste in 2016, compared with its paper recovery rate of 68% in 2018<sup>14</sup>.
- F
- T 13. And nearly all corrugated boxes are used to make recycled paper products<sup>15</sup>.
- F

1 American Forest & Paper Association. “Fun Facts.” Retrieved 4.9.2020.

2 U.S. Forest Service. “Water Facts.” Retrieved 4.1.2020.

3 American Forests. “The Important Relationship Between Forests and Water.” Retrieved 4.15.2020.

4 Congressional Research Service. “U.S. Forest Carbon Data: In Brief.” Retrieved 2.26.2021.

5 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. “National Overview: Facts and Figures on Materials, Wastes and Recycling.” Retrieved 2.26.2021.

6 Two Sides North America. “Print and Paper: The Facts.” Retrieved 4.1.2020.

7 American Forest & Paper Association. “2020 AF&PA Sustainability Report.” Retrieved 2.26.2021.

8 United States Department of Agriculture. “Forest Nursery Seedling Production in the United States—Fiscal Year 2012.” Tree Planters’ Notes, 56 (2). Retrieved 4.1.2020; reported by

American Forest & Paper Association, “Wood Products.” Retrieved 4.8.2020.

9 The United States Census Bureau. “Quick Facts: Chicago City, Illinois.” Retrieved 4.6.2020.

10 United States Environmental Protection Agency. “Sources of Aquatic Trash.” Retrieved 4.7.2020.

11 USDA Forest Service. “United States Forests at a Glance.” Retrieved 2.26.2021.

12 American Forest & Paper Association. “Recovery & Use of Old Corrugated Containers.” Retrieved 2.26.2021.

13 American Forest & Paper Association. “Paper Recovery & Land fill.” Retrieved 4.1.2020.

14 Two Sides North America. “Electronic Communication.” Retrieved 4.6.2020.

15 Corrugated.org. “Recycling Corrugated Packaging.” Retrieved 4.7.2020.