

## Invisible Ink

Did you know that invisible ink was invented over 2000 years ago by the Greeks? Since then, evidence of documents written with invisible ink has been found in many major wars. From George Washington and the CIA to spies and now... you!

### Materials Needed:

- a lemon
- a knife
- a spoon
- a toothpick
- something to write on
- an oven (a solar oven would work great)



### Activity:

**Step 1:** Cut the potato in half.

**Step 2:** Using a spoon, scoop a hole in the top of the potato (think of this as an “ink” well).

**Step 3:** Using the knife or spoon, push some of the potato juice into the hole.

**Step 4:** Using the toothpick as your writing tool, write out your message!

To reveal your message, place the paper into a warm oven (250f/120C) for a few minutes.

You will start to see the message appear in front of your eyes!

## Question Time!

Make daily observations:

1. Why do you think the ink reappears in heat?
2. What other liquids do you think would work?
3. What are some benefits of creating invisible ink?



**For the Adults:** This activity works on literacy, science, and critical thinking skills.

## Paper Alternatives

Paper is made out of many different materials you may not have considered. Fruit skins, bamboo, animal skin, and poop from a cow — just to name a few. In this activity, we will be making our own paper. No need to find a cow — all you'll need is some dryer lint.

### Materials Needed:

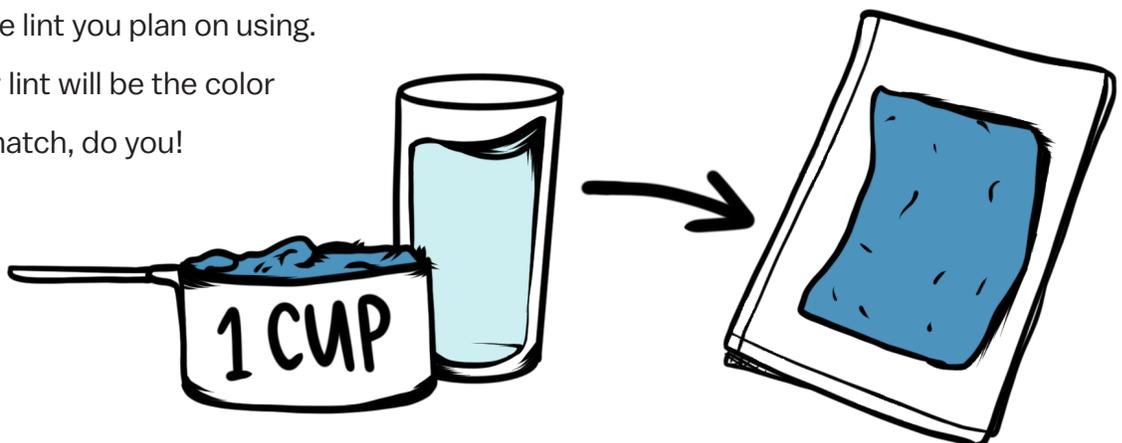
- Dryer lint from a few loads of laundry (you'll need about a cup of wet lint for one piece of paper)
- a bowl and water for soaking
- a blender
- your Kiwi Co. box frame
- a sponge

### Activity:

**Step 1:** Collect all the lint you plan on using.

Keep in mind the color lint will be the color of the paper, so mix, match, do you!

**Step 2:** Place lint in a bowl of water and soak overnight.



**Step 3:** Put one cup of lint into the blender and fill it to the top with water.

**Step 5:** Strain the pulp from the water.

A colander works well, or you can use your hands.

**Step 4:** Blend until the lint becomes a soft pulp.

**Step 6:** Place lint pulp in the frame.

