

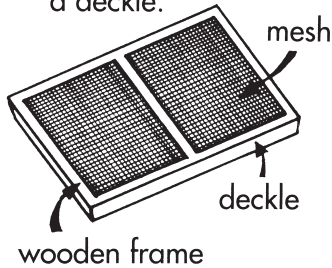
TRADITIONAL PAPERMAKING

Handmade paper has been made at Wookey Hole Papermill for nearly four hundred years. This diagram shows the process involved in traditional papermaking.

Use the pictures and labels to help you answer the questions.

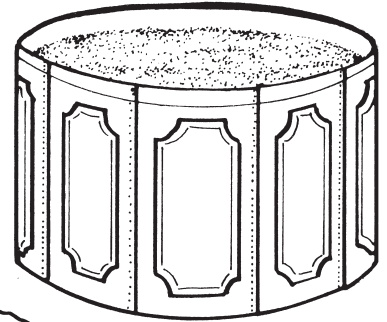
1 MOULD

The mould is the papermaker's most important tool. A rectangular wooden frame supports a double layer of wire mesh. Around the mould is another frame called a deckle.



2 HOLLANDER BEATER

Today, paper is made from raw cotton imported from the USA. This is put into the machine with water and beaten for 10 hours to produce a pulp.

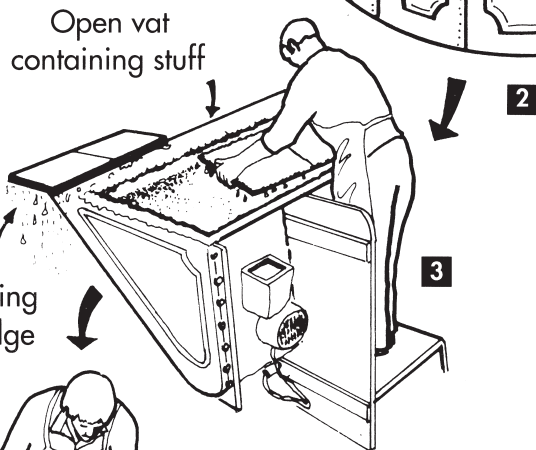


3 STUFF CHEST

Clean water, size and starch are added to the pulped cotton to make 'stuff'. This is pumped into the stuff chest.

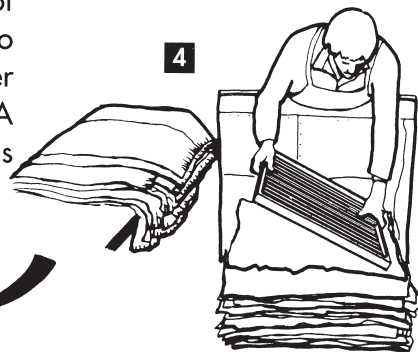
4 VATMAN

The vatman dips the mould into the vat to cover it with an even layer of stuff. He gives it a three-way shake known as the 'vatman's stroke'. This skill gives the paper its correct weight and thickness.



5 COUCHER

The coucher rolls the sheets of paper out of the mould onto a pure wool blanket. Another blanket is placed on top. A pile of 100–130 blankets is called a 'post'.

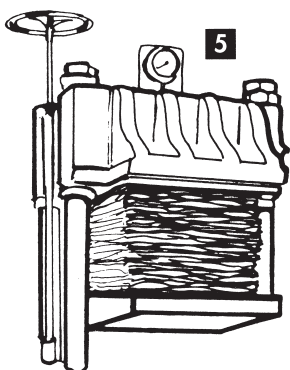


6 LAYING OFF AND DRYING

After pressing, the blankets are separated and the paper taken out (laying off). The sheets are then dried in a heated room.

7 HYDRAULIC PRESS

This squeezes out the water and presses the cotton fibres together to make paper.



8 FINISHING

After drying, the paper is dry pressed to make it flat. It takes 4–5 days from beating to the finished product and about 500 sheets are made every day.

Questions

1. What happens to the raw cotton in the Hollander Beater?
2. List the ingredients needed to make 'stuff'.
3. What is the 'vatman's stroke' and what does it do?
4. Who rolls the sheets of paper out of the mould?
5. What two things does the hydraulic press do?
6. Write a sentence about each one of the following:
 - (a) mould
 - (b) post
 - (c) laying off