

Smart Stuff

with Twig Walkingstick



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OHIO AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER

For the week of
Sept. 21, 2008

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Notes: Recycled-paper pencils include the TreeSmart Newspaper pencil, <http://www.pencilthings.com/servlet/Detail?no=691/>. Paper Mate makes the Earthwrite pencil (http://www.papermate.com/sanford/consumer/papermate/html/product/product_detail) from reclaimed scrap wood. Makers of really nice twig pencils include John Wyant of Minnesota, <http://www.stickcrayons.com/index.html> (crayons, too!) and Roger Plant of England, <http://www.twigpencils.co.uk/>.

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Q. Dear Twig: I know something else they make pencils out of. It isn't plastic, either. It's paper!

A. Excellent! You're right. There are companies that make pencils out of recycled paper. (The part of the pencil you hold, that is. Not the graphite.) Some of that paper is **recycled newsprint** — newspaper paper. Some of that paper is **recycled money** — worn-out bills (dollar bills, etc.) that the government took out of circulation (collected to keep people from using anymore) and shredded. There are pencils made out of **sawdust, scrap cardboard** and **blue-jean scraps**, too.

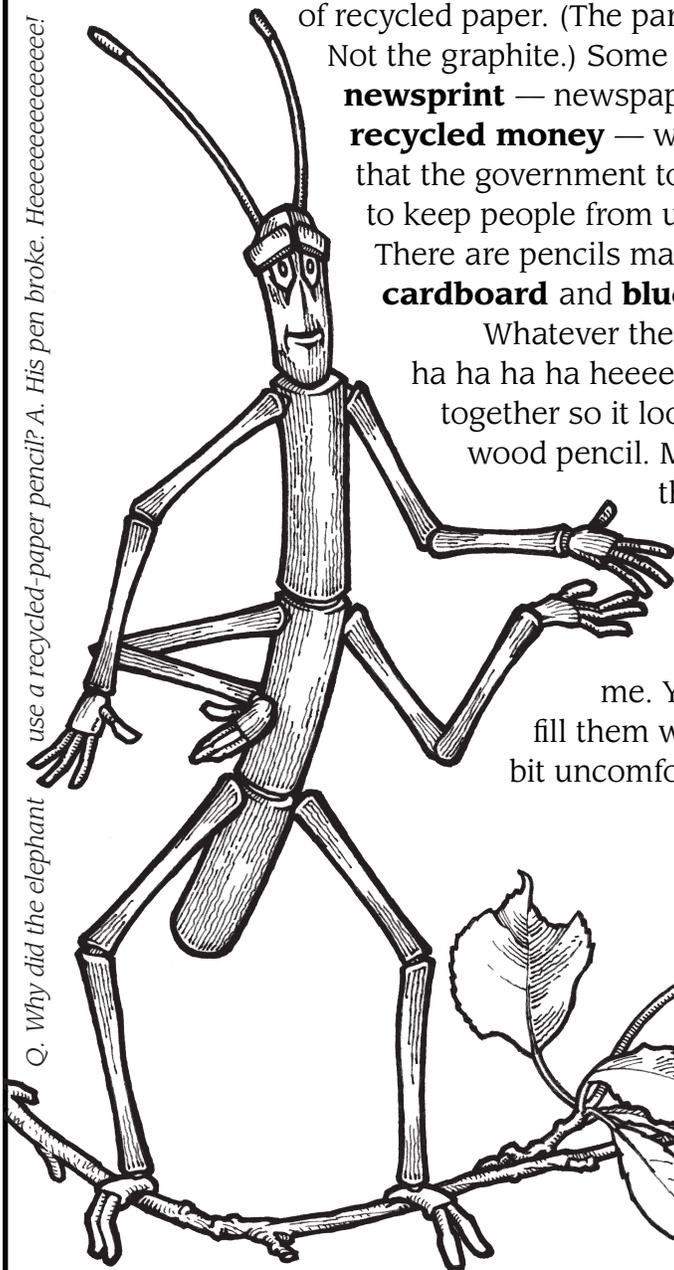
Whatever the case (The *pencil* case! Ba ha ha ha ha heeeeeeee!), a strong glue holds it all together so it looks and is shaped like a normal wood pencil. Making new pencils from thrown-away stuff puts trash to good use and saves trees.

Did you know you can make pencils out of **twigs**? Twigs from trees, that is, not me. You cut them, drill them, and fill them with graphite. I'd find that a bit uncomfortable.

Disjointedly,

Twig

Q. Why did the elephant use a recycled-paper pencil? A. His pen broke. Heeeeeeeeeeee!



From your scientific friends at The Ohio State University — specifically, the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (www.oardc.ohio-state.edu) and OSU Extension (extension.osu.edu).