Subtracting Waste = Adding Trees: Read All About It!
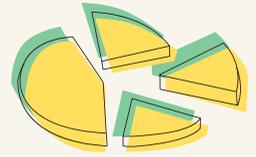
Name: _____   **Date:** _____

Work the Math:

Paper, paper everywhere—or so it may seem around the house! How much? What kind? Just *work the math* to find out.

1 **Make a Pie** The table below shows the different types and amounts of paper that are used in the United States each year. Use these facts to determine what percentage of the total each type of paper represents. Write these percentages in the table, and then write them on the pie chart to the right in the correct order. (*Hint: For percentages, divide the amount of each type of paper by the total amount of all paper. Round answers to the nearest tenth*.)

A Comparison of Paper Waste

Type of Paper	Amount of Waste (Millions of Tons)	% of Total Paper Waste
Boxes/Packaging	39.0	
Newspaper	12.1	
Books/Magazines	3.6	
Printer/Copier	13.9	
Other	15.3	
Total		

■ Books/Magazines   ■ Other
■ Newspaper   ■ Boxes/Packaging
■ Printer/Copier
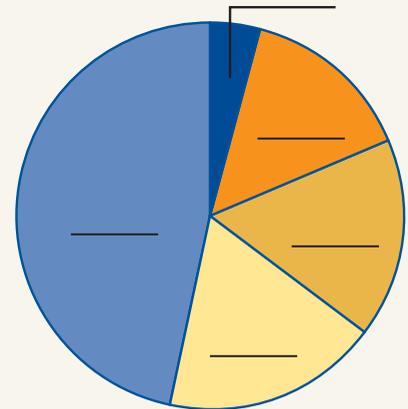
2 Based on the information above, how likely is it that the type of paper being wasted will be a newspaper? Circle your answer.

• very likely   • somewhat likely   • not likely

3
a. Each year, approximately ⅓ of all books/magazines and ⅗ of boxes/packaging are recycled. How many tons of books/magazines are recycled? _____ Boxes/packaging? _____ (*Round your answers to the nearest tenth*.)

b. How many tons of books/magazines and boxes/packaging were recycled altogether? _____

c. How many trees are saved by this recycling? (*Hint: One ton of recycled paper saves 17 trees.*) _____

4
a. Which type of paper does your family use most? _____ Least? _____

b. Which, if any, does your family recycle? _____

c. List two ways to reduce the amount of paper your family uses each year.

■ _____

■ _____

ANSWERS: **1. Make a Pie** Total: 83.9; Boxes/Packaging 46.5%, Newspaper 14.4%, Books/Magazines 4.3%, Printer/Copier 16.6%, Other 18.2%. **2.** somewhat likely. **3. a.** 3.6 million tons x ⅓ = 1.2 million tons recycled; 39 million tons x ⅗ = 23.4 million tons recycled; **b.** 1.2 + 23.4 = 24.6 million tons recycled total; **c.** 24.6 million tons x 17 trees per ton of paper = 418.2 million trees. **4.** Answers will vary.