Papyrus Paper: Ancient Writing Material
Papyrus paper was developed in ancient Egypt and has many uses.

Papyrus is a thin paper-like material made from the papyrus plant. Papyrus was first used in ancient Egypt, dating back to the fourth millennium BCE. Egyptians used papyrus as a writing material, as well as using it to construct other items such as baskets, maps and rope.

In the first centuries BCE and CE, papyrus was replaced as a writing surface in Europe in favor of parchment, which was prepared from animal skins. Papyrus was relatively cheap and easy to produce, but it was fragile and susceptible to moisture. Parchment was an improvement on the papyrus scroll, as the papyrus was not pliable enough to fold without cracking and a scroll was required to create longer texts. Papyrus was still commonly used in Egypt until paper became available around the 12th century.

Traditionally, papyrus is made from the stem of the papyrus plant, Cyperus papyrus. First, the outer rind is removed and then the sticky inner pith (tissue) is cut lengthwise into thin strips. These strips are soaked in water. The strips are then placed side by side on a hard surface with their edges slightly overlapping, and then another layer of strips is laid on top at a right angle. While still moist, the two layers are hammered together, creating a single sheet. The sheet is then dried. After drying, the sheet is polished to a smooth surface by rubbing it with a rock or shell.