

Parachutes

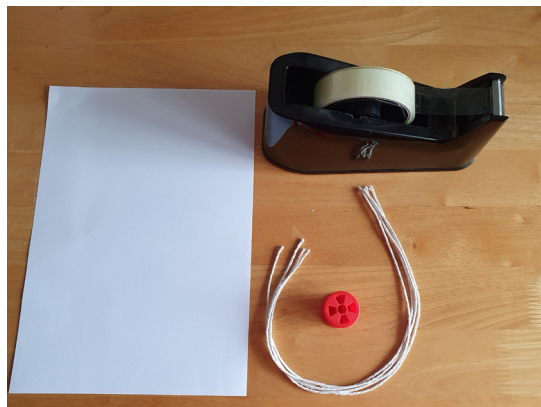
During this workshop, students gain an understanding of the forces that impact on a parachute whilst investigating the suitability of a variety of materials. Students will test their predictions and explore why fair testing is important. This workshop supports the understanding of the physical properties of materials. In addition, students will further develop this science knowledge using parachutes to demonstrate the science of forces and motion.

Suitable for Ages 5-8

Curriculum links Working Scientifically and Science of Forces and Motion

Resources

- 1 x Piece of Card/Paper/Tissue Paper/Cellophane
- 4 x Pieces of String
- Tape
- 1 x Cotton Reel/Elastic Band/Blu Tack/Plasticine

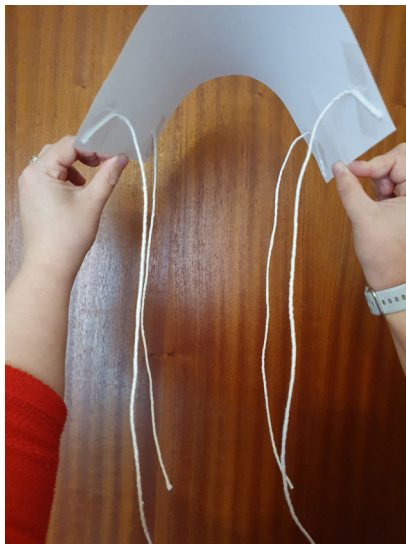


Instructions

- Take your card/paper. Take 1 piece of string and place it in a corner and secure it with a small piece of tape



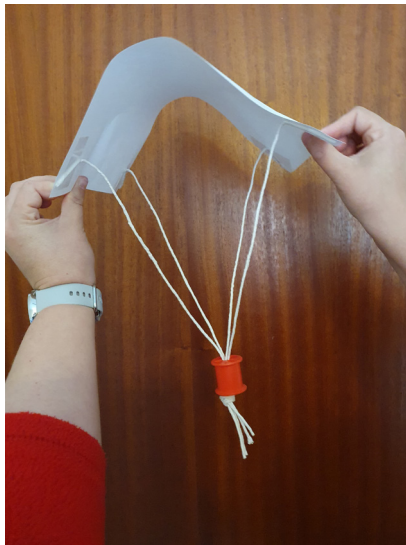
- Continue to do the same with the 3 other corners.
- Once you've done that, you should have something that looks like a bit like a Jellyfish!



- Now take all 4 pieces of string to meet in the middle.
- Take your cotton reel, then thread all the string through the hole in the centre of the cotton reel. If you do not have a cotton reel, you could use an elastic band to bunch all of the string together and then add some weight with either blu tack or plasticine.



- Tie a single knot in the bottom of the string.
- You should now have a Parachute.
- Now, with adult supervision, take your parachutes to the top of your stairs or somewhere high up. Hold your parachute by the canopy (like the picture below) and let go. See if your parachute falls to the ground very quickly or very slowly.
- Discuss your result. What happened and why do you think that happened?
- If you'd like to, make adjustments to your parachutes or make a new one using one of the other materials. See if you get the same result.



Happy Flying! Don't forget to share your creation with us.



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