

STELLAR STEAM ACTIVITY

Sky Diver

Create a Parachute



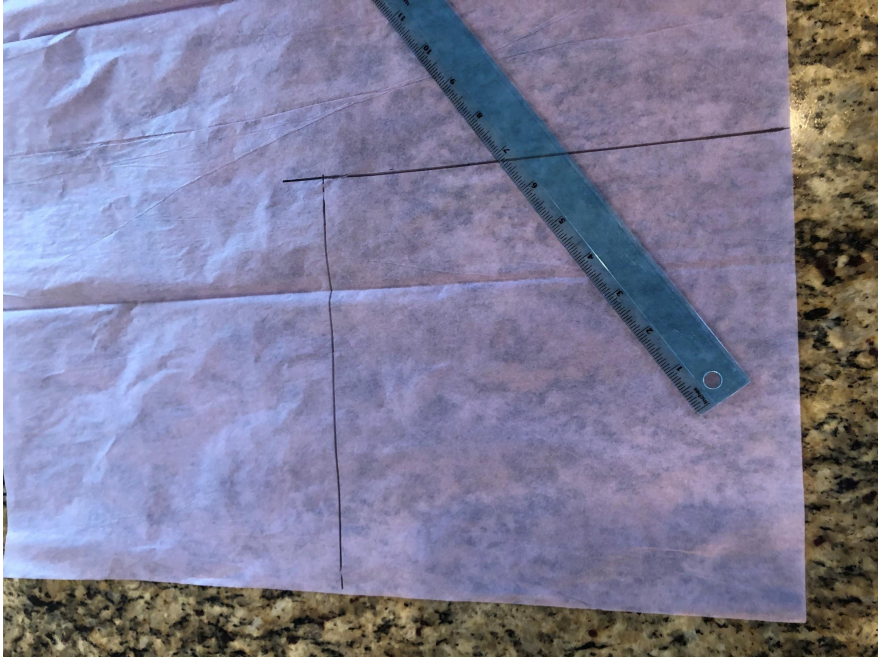
Watch This Video To Learn How Parachutes Work



Materials:

- 10 inch squares of tissue paper, notebook paper, lightweight plastic (grocery bag)
- 4 - 12" inch pieces of string or yarn
- Clear tape
- Paper clip
- Scissors
- Ruler (not required)

Directions: Step 1



- Cut a 10 inch X 10 inch square of tissue paper, notebook paper, or plastic bag.

Directions: Step 2



- Use a ruler to measure a 12 inch length of string or yarn.
- Cut at 12 inches.
- Repeat 3 more times.
- If you do not have a ruler, estimate. Just make sure all pieces of string are the same length.

Directions: Step 3



- Tape a piece of the string to each corner of the tissue, paper or plastic.

Directions: Step 4



- Wrap the ends of the string through the paper clip and secure with tape.
- Congratulations! You have successfully created a parachute.

Launch Your Parachute!

- Go outside and launch your parachute. Stand on a step to make the flight longer.
- Give it a slight toss up into the air, and let it glide to the ground.
- How did your parachute fly?

How It Works

Hopefully your parachute will descend slowly to the ground, giving your paperclip a comfortable landing. When you release the parachute the weight pulls down on the strings and opens up a large surface area of material that uses air resistance to slow it down. The larger the surface area the more air resistance and the slower the parachute will drop. Cutting a small hole in the middle of the parachute will allow air to slowly pass through it rather than spilling out over one side, this should help the parachute fall straighter.

Think About It

- What would happen if you used a different material to construct your parachute?
- What would happen if you used a heavier weight, such as a key or little action figure, instead of the paper clip?
- Can you build another parachute out of different materials and launch them both at the same time? Which one floats in the air longer? Why?

Send Us Pictures!

Your STELLAR teachers want to see your pictures!

Please email pictures of your parachutes to your school STELLAR teacher.

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