



Learning, Leading, Living

Let's Go Fly a Kite!

Mission Mandate/Project

Connection:

Science and Technology/
Aerospace

Life Skills:

Learning to Learn

Audience

4-H members of all ages

Time:

20 - 30 minutes

Supplies Needed:

- Kite template (see kite template file) or alternatively, a colored piece of paper
- Bamboo Skewers
- Pruning Shears
- Hole Punch
- ¼" diameter paper reinforcement labels
- Clear Tape
- Surveyor's Flagging Tape (available at hardware stores)
- Cardboard
- Scissors
- Kite String

Do Ahead:

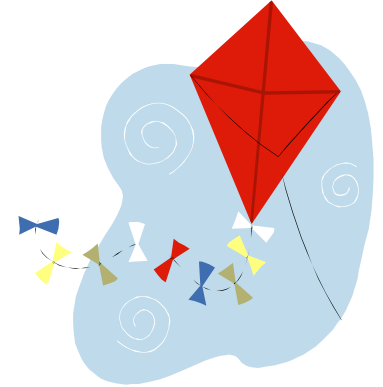
- Cut cardboard into 1" x 3" pieces, one string winder for each participant.
- Cut bamboo skewers with pruning shears to 8" length.

Youth Roles:

- Help gather and prepare lesson materials.
- Demonstrate how to make the kite.
- Guide youth in construction of the kite.

BACKGROUND

Kites are thought to have originated in Asia, and first appeared in China over 3,000 years ago. Malaysian fishermen have used leaf kites for thousands of years as a means to catch fish.



WHAT TO DO

I. Introductory Activity

Have a short discussion with youth about the basic parts of a kite and kite safety.

Basic Parts of a Kite:

- Sail – the material that forms the kite face.
- Keel – the chief structural element that runs lengthwise and stabilizes the kite in flight.
- Spar – a structural element that runs crosswise and gives the kite strength.
- Tail – helps keep the kite face at an angle to the wind and stabilizes the kite in flight.

Kite Safety:

- Only fly your kite in open areas.
- Never fly your kite near trees, houses, buildings, streets, highways, overhead electric power lines, or near crowds of people.

II. Build a kite with the template:

- Give each youth a kite template, one 8" bamboo skewer, one 10' piece of flagging tape, and clear tape.
- Fold the kite template in half along line A.
- Fold top piece of template back along line B.
- Turn template over and fold top piece of template back along line C.
- Lift the template and swing left side of template up and tape seam firmly along lines B & C.
- Tape a bamboo skewer between E and D.
- Tape the end of flagging tape firmly at F to form a tail.
- Turn the kite over and fold the keel back and forth until it stands up straight (otherwise the kite may spin in circles).

Source:

Adapted from 20 Kids*20 Kites* 20 minutes by Jonathan Socher, Big Wind Kite Factory, (www.bigwindkites.com). Used with permission.

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Kevin A. Palmer and Paula Rogers Huff, 2012 University of Wisconsin-Extension

- Punch a hole in the keel where the circle is located and attach a reinforcement label over the hole.
- Tie the string around the cardboard string winder and wind 10 feet of string (about 60 turns).
- Attach the other end of the string to the hole in the kite.
- Go fly your kite!

III. Build a kite with colored paper:

- Give each youth one piece of 8½" x 11" colored paper, one 8" bamboo skewer, one 10' piece of flagging tape, and clear tape.
- Fold the paper in half to 8½" x 5½" (crease should be on the left).
- From the upper left corner measure in ½" and make a mark. From the bottom left corner measure in 2½" and make a mark. Draw a line between these two marks. Fold top piece back along the line.
- Turn paper over (crease should be on the right) and from the upper right corner measure in ½" and make a mark. From the bottom right corner measure in 2½" and make a mark. Draw a line between these two marks. Fold top piece back along the line.
- Lift the template and swing left side of template up and tape seam firmly together.
- Center a bamboo skewer across the kite and about two inches down from the top of the kite and tape it down firmly.
- Tape the end of flagging tape firmly at the bottom of the kite to form the tail.
- Turn the kite over and fold the keel back and forth until it stands up straight (otherwise the kite may spin in circles).
- Punch a hole in the keel about 2½" down from the top of the kite and about ½" in from the crease in the keel. Attach a reinforcement label over the hole.
- Tie the string around the cardboard string winder and wind 10 feet of string (about 60 turns).
- Attach the other end of the string to the hole in the kite.

IV. Go Fly a Kite!

Find an open area to fly the kites. Review kite safety and let youth fly their kites!

TALK IT OVER

Reflect

- What happened when you made your kite?
- What worked well for you? What was hard?
- How did your kite fly?
- What adjustments did you make to your kite?
- How did you decide what adjustments needed to be made?

Apply

- Do we ever have to make adjustments in other areas of our lives?
- How can making adjustments be a good thing?



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