

GO FLY A Kite: Part 1

by Julian Celms

Kite flying has been with us for generations, and objects in the sky have always fascinated humans. How we marvel at the freedom of a kite bouncing and waving in the air on a sunny afternoon.

Featured in this and the next issue's Sharing/Paksak column will be some ideas for kite making. These are easy kites to make using materials readily at hand. They may even make great back-up activities to have ready 'just in case'; perfect for an afternoon at the park.

Paper Bag Kite

Here is a fun, simple kite for Beavers. Make the kite first, then let them decorate it however they wish; with crayons, paint, glitter...let their imaginations guide them!

You will need a large brown grocery bag for each Beaver.

Directions for each bag:

- At the top of the bag, cut a hole in each corner with a hole punch.

Use paper ring reinforcements or have your Keeto and Whitetails use masking tape and punch through the tape with a pencil. This step is important to make sure that the holes don't tear the kite.

- Cut two pieces of string each about 80 cm long. Tie each end of the string through one of the holes you just made in the bag – this should create two loops.
- Now cut another piece of string the same length – about 80 cm. This will become the handle for the kite. Loop this through the other two pieces of string and tie the two ends together.
- Kite decoration time! Your Beavers can now decorate their kite using whatever materials you have on hand. They can put a face on the kite, or turn the kite into a fish by adding fins and eyes. You can glue a few things on the kite, but try not to let it get much heavier.
- Cut some colourful streamers for the kite and attach them on the bot-

tom. Use crêpe paper, or cut up some plastic bags into strips.

When your kite has dried, its time to take it out for a fly. Have your Beavers hold onto the kite handle and run so the wind catches the kite.

Newspaper Sled Kite

This is a great activity for Cubs. You will need newspaper, tape (masking tape is good), and something for the tail (trail-marking tape can work; so can crêpe streamers).

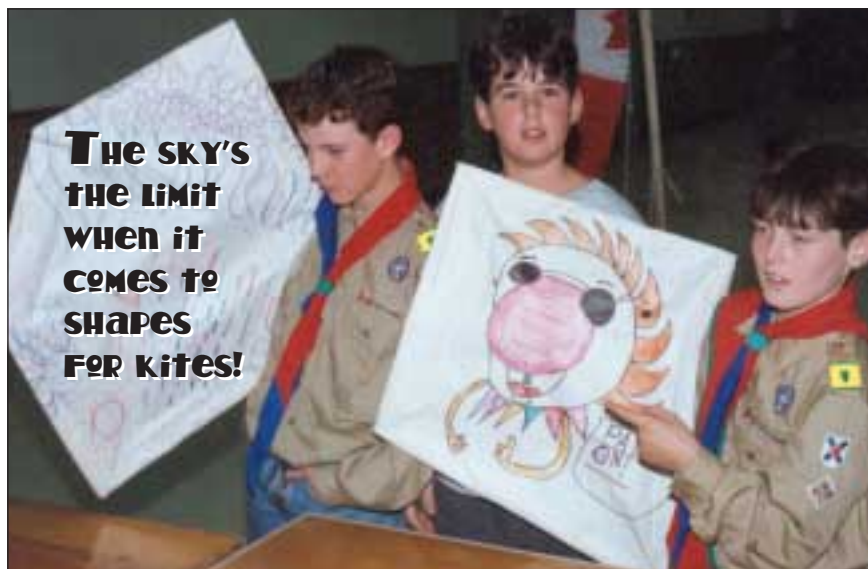
- From a regular newspaper, take a full piece (usually four pages with the crease in the middle) (see diagram #1).
- Fold in half using page crease – so the paper is taller than it is wide. Make a mark 15 cm in from the edge on both the top (point A) and bottom (point B) of the folded paper. From the top corner, also make a mark 15 cm down the edge (Point C) [see diagram # 2].

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**The sky's
the limit
when it
comes to
shapes
for kites!**

Photo: Charles McPhee

- Draw a line on the top edge connecting the points A-C, and C-B. Cut along these lines (see diagram #3).
- Open up the paper. Using tape, tape along the edges and on the inside as shown in diagram # 4. This is to keep the kite strong so it won't tear while in the air.
- Now you need to make two supports for the kite. Using another full piece of paper, tightly roll it into a tube. Use a little bit of tape to help keep it rolled up. Do this twice.

- Now tape these tubes to the kite along the lines indicated in diagram #5. If the rolls are too long, cut them to size.
- Next, you need to make a hole in each side of the kite at the side points and at the bottom. A paper hole punch works well. You should be punching through tape so the hole doesn't rip. Then you need to cut two pieces of string, the first one a metre and a half long. Tie the first one across the widest point of the kite. In the middle of the first one, make a loop; this is

Kite FLYER'S CODE



- t I will fly kites in an open field, away from electric power lines and transmission towers.
- t I will use dry string, never wire. (Wire could attract and conduct lightning.)
I won't use anything metal in my kites.
- t I will not try to remove a kite if it catches in an electric power line or on a high pole.
- t I will not fly kites on or near public roads or highways.

NEWSPAPER SLED Kite construction

Diagram 1



Diagram 2

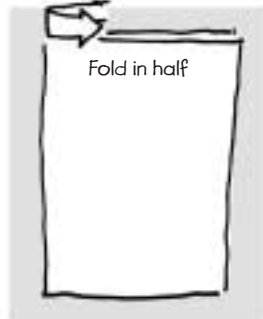


Diagram 3

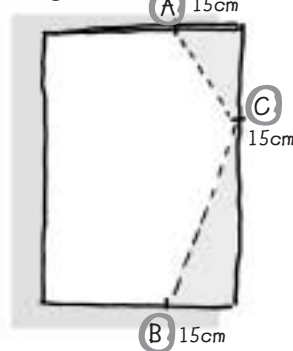
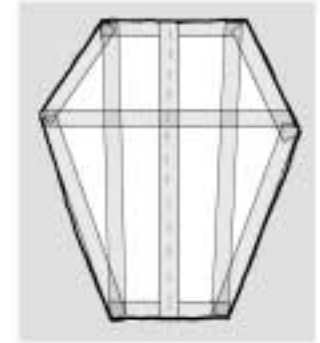


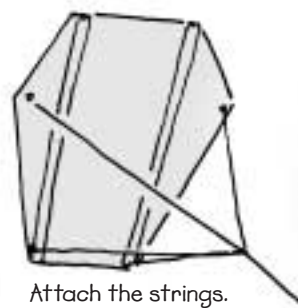
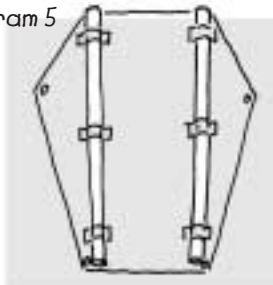
Diagram 4



Make supports for the kite by tightly rolling full pieces of paper into tubes. Use a bit of tape to hold them together.

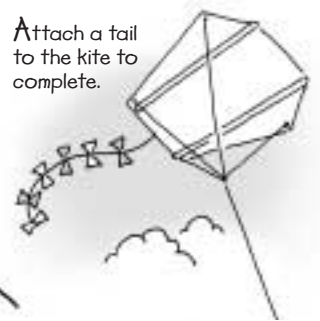


Diagram 5



Attach the strings.

Attach a tail to the kite to complete.



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the bridle that will allow you to attach the kite to your string.

- The second piece of string can be about one metre long. Tie this between the two points at the bottom. Attach three to five metres of something light to act as a tail; trail-marking tape or streamers work well.
- Go fly the kite! You can experiment with the length of the first piece of string along the widest part of the kite; tie the knot to shorten the midpoint and see what effect it has on how the kite flies. You can also

experiment by adding a crosspiece of rolled paper between the two spars on the kite; does it help or hinder the kite? How does moving it at different points up and down the middle affect how the kite flies?

Beavers and Cubs are sure to enjoy flying high on the wings of imagination! X

Program Links

Cubs: Tawny Star,
Handicraft Badge



Photo: Hazel Hallgren

Whether it's making kites or paper planes, youths can experience flight in a wide variety of ways!

KITES: A SHORT HISTORY

No one really knows who first flew kites or when, but Chinese people were flying them at least 2,000 years ago.

The earliest written account of kite flying was about 200 B.C. A Chinese general flew a kite above his town to determine how far his troops would have to tunnel to get behind the enemy. They successfully measured the distance, dug their tunnel, surprised the enemy and won the battle.

Buddhist monks used kites in the seventh century to ward off evil spirits and to ensure rich harvests.

Kites were used by Alexander Graham Bell, Ben Franklin and the Wright Brothers to learn the principles of flight. These principles were later applied to airplanes.

The Wright Brothers discovered that kites could provide enough lift to be able to support a person's weight. They went on to build a number of different "air planes" and eventually added engines. In 1903 they flew the world's first manned flying machine.

People have used kites to achieve many results. Ben Franklin even used his kite to pull him through the water while swimming. Others fastened them to carriages and sleds so the wind could pull them along the ground as the kite flew through the sky.

The five most common types of kites include: delta, diamond, dragon, box and parafoil.