

GO FLY A KITE

MONKEY CITY Environment & Outdoors



THE ADVENTURE:

Get outside and fly a kite! Design and build your own kites and see how well they fly. Compare designs to come up with the best kite.

PLAN:

- Where do you want to do this adventure? You will need a wide open outdoor space to fly your kites.
- What do you know about how kites fly? What are some of the features of a kite?
- What makes a kite fly? What do you need to know about flight before you can build a kite?
- What materials will you use to build your kites?
- How will you determine which kite is the best?
- How will you hold on to the spool of string?

DO:

- Examine and fly a pre-made kite. What do you notice about how it is built? How well does it fly?
- Gather the materials you will need to make your kite.
- Build a few kites and test them out.
- Some kites use tails while others do not. Which kites need a tail?

REVIEW:

- What do you know now that you did not know before?
- What did you notice about the different kite styles? How were they different? How were they the same?
- How much wind did each kite need?
- How much does each kite weigh? How does this affect how easily it flies?
- What elements of STEM did you use in this adventure? Science? Technology? Engineering? Mathematics?
- What did you like about this adventure? What did you not like? How would you do this adventure differently?

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MATERIALS:

Building materials can include (but are not limited to):

- Plastic grocery bags
- Drinking straws
- Clear tape
- String
- Paper (legal and letter size)
- Stapler
- Pieces of nylon fabric
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- Bamboo skewers
- Pre-made kite

ONLINE RESOURCES:

- Kites: e-scoutcraft.com/activities/kites.html
- Kite building templates: www.kiteguy.info/2.html
- NASA Kites: www.grc.nasa.gov/www/k-12/airplane/kite1.html
- Let's Go Fly a Kite www.sciencebuddies.org/science-fair-projects/project_ideas/Aero_p016.shtml#summary

SAFETY TIP:

- Garbage bags and plastic grocery bags can be very dangerous and should never be put over anyone's head.
- How can you stay safe while flying a kite?

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