



*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:

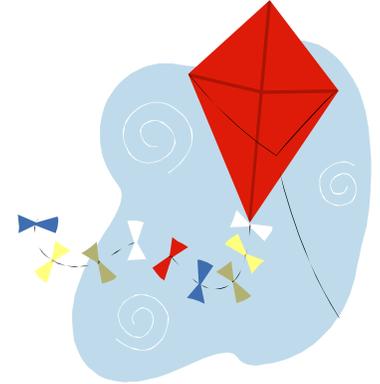
- Cut cardboard into 1" x 3" pieces, one string winder for each participant.
- Cut bamboo skewers with pruning shears to 8" length.

### 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](http://www.bigwindkites.com)). Used with permission.

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- 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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