MONTSHIRE MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

Activity: Toy Parachutes

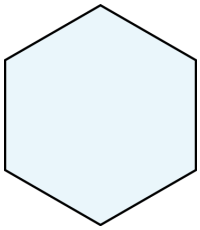
Build and test a miniature parachute to float a toy safely to the ground.

Materials:

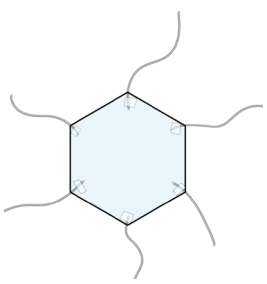
- Plastic grocery bag
- Scissors
- String
- Tape
- Small Toy

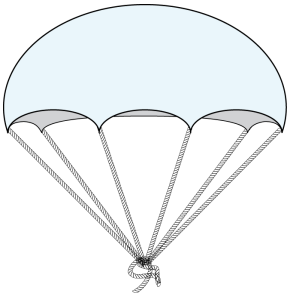
Instructions:

1. Make your parachute top.
   - Cut the sides off of a plastic grocery bag to create a sheet of plastic.
   - Cut the plastic into a 6-sided hexagon.

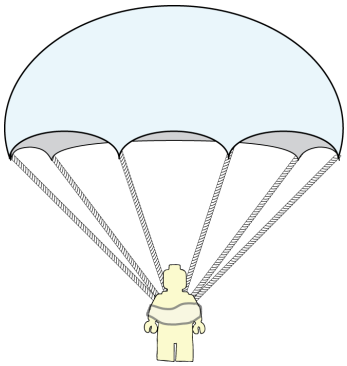


2. Add strings.
   - Cut six strings roughly one foot long.
   - Tape a string to each point of the hexagon.
   - Grab the center of your parachute and lift it up to gather all the strings together.
   - Tie all six strings into one knot. They should all be the same length now.





3. Add a toy.
   - Add a toy to the bottom of your strings. Small toys like plastic figurines or lego people are good to start with.
   - Use tape or string to attach your toy.



4. Test it.
   - Hold your parachute from its top. Stand on tip toes and let go!
   - Check with your grownups to brainstorm taller things you could test it from: a chair, balcony, outside.

Try These Experiments

- Does changing the number of sides your parachute top has affect how it moves through the air?
- Can you think of a different material to make the parachute top from?
- Does the size of the parachute top make a difference?
- Can you make a parachute that could safely land a stuffed animal?

Record Your Results

TOY NAME	HEIGHT OF DROP	TIME TO DROP	NOTES AND IDEAS