

Ready for liftoff? Design a parachute that stays in the air the longest!

MATERIALS:

- Various types of paper (e.g. copy paper, construction paper, tissue paper)
- Plastic shopping bags
- String
- Tape
- Hole punch
- Weighted object (e.g. paper clips, counting bears)
- Stopwatch

Students may choose from any of the materials provided; not all are required.

METHOD:

Objective: Build a parachute that falls as slowly as possible.

1. Divide into groups of two.
2. Design and assemble a parachute using the available materials. Construction must include a weighted object suspended from the parachute.
3. Drop the parachute from a set height (e.g. chair, ladder or upper floor) and time how long it takes for each parachute to land.
4. Record and compare times across teams.

TAKE IT BACK TO CLASS:

- Explore how weight, surface area and different materials affect the parachute drop.
- Have students try different materials for improved results.

SOURCE:

“Stem til the END” by All About 3rd Grade

NOTES

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.