

BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

EXPERIMENT

YOU CAN DO AT

HOME



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SKYDIVER SCIENCE!

WHY DO PARACHUTES WORK?

Gravity pulls everything down to Earth, making things fall fast. A parachute catches a lot of air creating resistance, that slows the fall and makes landings softer!

Let's make parachutes to see how air can slow things down!



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MAKE A PARACHUTE

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- Plastic bag, tissue paper, bin bag etc...
- Scissors
- Clear adhesive tape
- String
- Small action figure





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PREP WORK:

1. Carefully cut a large square in your chosen material. This will be your canopy.
2. Pierce a hole 2cm in from each corner.
3. Cut 4 equal lengths of string, 30cm long.
4. Tie one end of each piece of string to each corner hole on your canopy.
5. Tie the 4 loose ends to your action figure.



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EXPERIMENT:

Find a safe, high place to drop your parachute, like a chair or a staircase. Hold it by the top and let go - *watch how it falls!*

Does it slow down as it catches the air? Try making a bigger or smaller parachute, changing the string length, or adding more weight. What happens?

Experiment to see how **air resistance** affects the speed of the fall!

