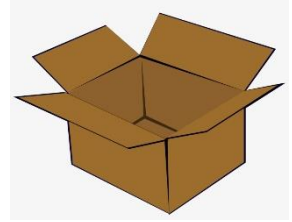




Science Activity

Make a parachute

Time to prepare: 10 minutes



□ Please, stay safe and ask a grown up to supervise you

Resources/ things you need

- Carrier bag, paper, material etc. for your parachute
- A LEGO man or similar
- String to fasten your man to the parachute
- Timer

What to do

1. Drop your Lego man from a height (e.g. from standing on a chair.) Be careful with this! Time how long it takes from when you let go to when it hits the ground (ask someone to help you with this.)
2. Design and create a parachute to slow down the fall of the Lego man. Think - what material would be best to use? Would a bigger parachute be better than a smaller one?
3. Use string to attach your Lego man to the parachute.
4. Test your parachute by dropping it from exactly the same height as before and timing how long it takes to hit the ground. Did it slow down the fall?
5. You could repeat this a few times, making parachutes out of different materials or different sizes and shapes to see which works the best!

Background and the link to learning

This experiment shows the power of air resistance. The parachute should slow the fall of the LEGO man because it has a large surface area (the amount of space it takes up). When an object has a large surface area, it has to push against more air as it drops which means the air resistance is greater and it drops more slowly. So the parachute works because the air resistance acting on it is greater than for just the LEGO man by himself.

Pictures



<p>Did you find out which size/ shape/ material works best for a parachute?</p>	
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[Link to other similar activities](#) - Please see rubber band cannon and balloon car racers.

