

# PARACHUTE PLAYTIME

Engenuity *Air Resistance*

Using items found around the house make discover how different shapes can affect how well a parachute works. Give a toy of your choice a fun journey as you test air resistance. Adult supervision required!

## You will need

- A plastic bag or light material
- Scissors
- String
- A small object to act as the weight

## Instructions

1. Cut out a large square from your plastic bag or material.
2. Trim the edges into a shape you chose (Square, triangle, circle, octagon).
3. Cut a small hole near the edge of each side.
4. Attach pieces of string of the same length to each of the holes.
5. Tie the pieces of string to the object you are using as a weight. Top Tip: if you can't tie the strings to the object try using a paper cup or cardboard box to place it in.
6. Find a high spot to drop your parachute. Make sure this is a safe place to drop and ask an adult to help.
7. Time how long it takes for your parachute to land.



## What's happening?

Your parachute should fall slowly to the ground and giving your object a soft landing. When you release the parachute, the gravity will pull down on the object causing the parachute to open. This allows more air to be caught up into the material and increase the air resistance causing the parachute to slow down. The larger the surface area the more air resistance and the slower the parachute will drop.

## Now try this

Change the shapes and sizes of the parachute.

Which one takes the longest to land?

Pick a point as a landing spot find out which parachute lands the closest to this point.

Share your parachute experiments with us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!