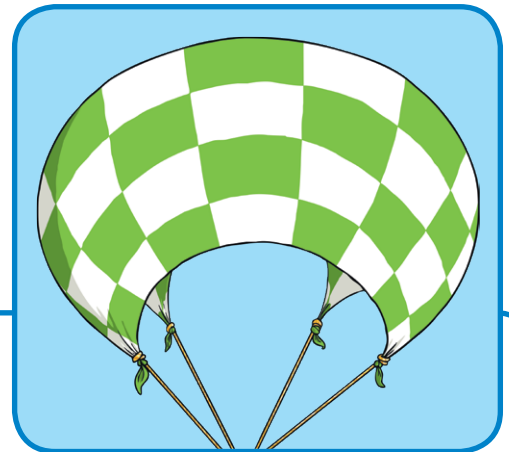


British Science Week

Design a Parachute Activity

A parachute slows down something that is falling to the ground. You are going to design parachutes to find out what material makes the best parachute.



What you will need:

- a ball of plasticine
- four pieces of string
- different types of material, e.g. paper towel, writing paper. They all need to be the same size.
- stopwatch

1. You are going to test one parachute material at a time.
2. Put the four ends of string in the plasticine and press down so they stay in.
3. Tie the other ends of the string to each corner of the parachute material.
4. Hold the parachute up by the material. Each time you do the experiment, you should hold it at the same height.
5. Have someone ready to press start on the stopwatch. You might ask a grown-up to help with this.
6. When you let go, the person with the stopwatch presses start. They press stop as soon as the parachute hits the ground.
7. Record each time on the British Science Week Parachute Recording Sheet.

Science Experiment

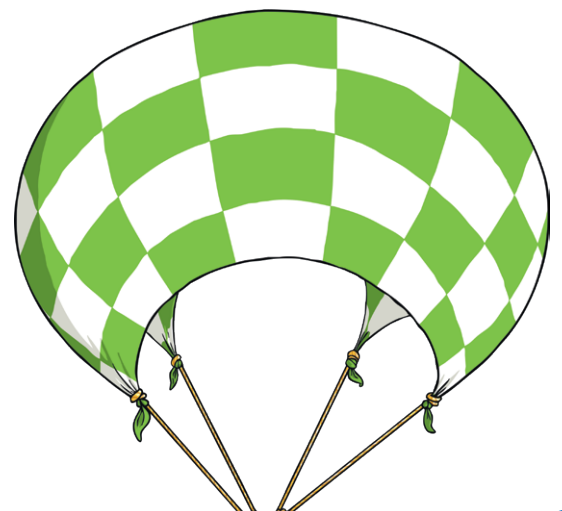
Design a Parachute

Why is it important that the parachute is held up at the same height each time?

Do you think a bigger or smaller parachute would work better?

What parachute worked the best and why do you think this was?

Explain what happened in the experiment to a friend.



British Science Week Parachute Recording Sheet

Record the time each parachute took to hit the floor.

Material	Time taken to reach the floor