

15-Minute STEAM: Parachute Man

Supplies

Coffee Filter

Pipe Cleaners/Chennile Sticks

Scissors

Markers (optional)

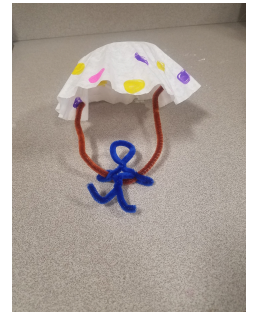
1. If you want to, you could decorate the coffee filter with markers, but plain white works well too.

2. How to make a pipe cleaner stickman steps



3. Take a second pipe cleaner and poke one end through the edge of a coffee filter. Fold over once to secure. Take the free end and run through the "hands" of the stick figure (his arms are loops). Connect the free end to the coffee filter and bend up.

4. Take the parachute guy someplace high, like a playhouse, second floor deck, balcony or park jungle gym. Gently release the toy and let it float to the ground.



The Science

The force of gravity pulls all objects towards the ground.. The toy parachute creates more air resistance than the toy has by itself. This air resistance helps to slow the toy down as it falls to the ground. Air resistance is sometimes called drag, and it's a type of friction.

How do you make a parachute slower?

Challenge your child to make a parachute that will make the toy's fall even slower.

A bigger parachute will increase the air resistance and therefore make it slower. If you unfold a paper napkin you can cut a large circle from its center.. You can further experiment with air resistance and how parachutes work with these extensions:

Try making a smaller parachute. Use a cupcake liner or cutting a smaller circle out of a coffee filter to make it.

What happens if you use longer strings? Try doubling the length of the strings you use and see what happens.

Taken in part from stlmotherhood.com/coffee-filter-parachute-guy & theresjustonemommy.com/coffee-filter-parachute-stem



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