

FUN THINGS TO DO FROM THE ARBUTHNOT MUSEUM TEAM AT PETERHEAD



HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN PARACHUTE

A parachute is used to slow the motion of an object falling through the air by creating resistance. They are usually made out of light, strong fabric like silk or nylon. Here is how you can make your own parachute.

What you need:

- Paper napkin or towel (square shaped)
- Button with 4 holes
- Thin string or thread
- Pieces of sticky tape
- Hole punch (or something safe to make a hole)
- Scissors
- Ruler



How to:

1. Lay out the square napkin or paper towel.
2. Cover each corner with a piece of sticky tape and flip the napkin over and cover the back of each corner too. This will make the corners nice and strong for the next step.
3. Punch a hole into each corner with the hole punch. Make sure only the taped area is punched.
4. Cut 4 pieces of thin string or thread. They need to be the same length as one side of the napkin or paper towel (ie if the napkin is 20cm on each side then the string or thread should be 20cm).
5. Thread and tie the strings through each of the holes in the corner of the napkin.

6. Bring the long ends down and feed through each hole of the button.
7. Tie the strings together into one big knot under the button.
8. Hold the parachute by the button, then toss it upwards.

Throw your parachute high in the air and watch it descend slowly to the ground, giving your button a comfortable landing. When you release the parachute the weight pulls down on the strings and opens up a large surface area of material which uses air resistance to slow it down. The larger the surface area the more air resistance and the slower the parachute will drop.