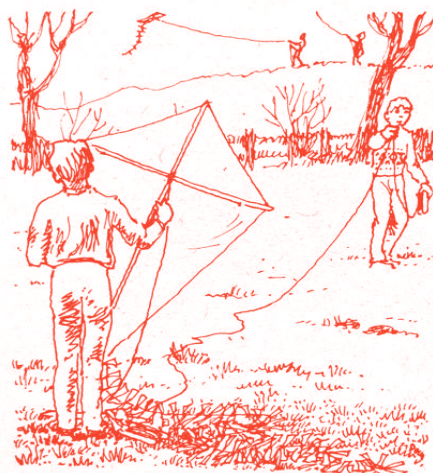
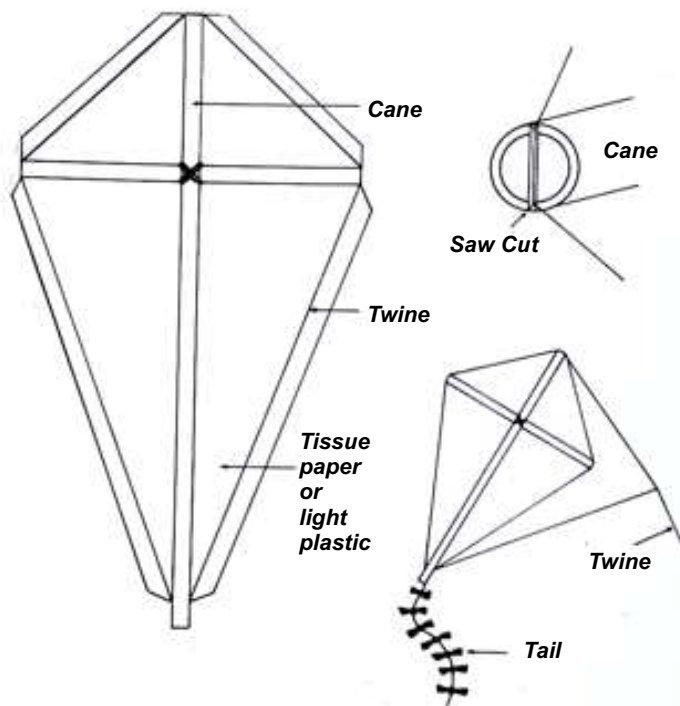




Activity 16: Project

Make and fly a kite

Location: Anywhere (but why not Dunstable?)



Everyone loves flying a kite and they are now available for around £5 from eBay. But there is even more fun in making a kite and coaxing it up into the air.

The big issue with a kite is the weight. The ones you can buy have clever mouldings and engineering materials to gain the required strength within a few grams. Home made kites will be heavier which simply means they need a slightly stronger wind to succeed.

If you stay in our District to fly a kite it is less likely that you will find a good wind but if you decamp to Nomansland, or better still, Dunstable Downs, the wind speeds are always higher. These are popular destinations for kite flyers.

The kite plans illustrated here suggest using the thinnest canes you can find. The heavier the cane, the stronger the required wind.

A junior hacksaw and a pair of scissors are probably the only tools you will require. However, if you can see a way to lessen the weight—raid the toolbox, get creative, make a better kite!

Kite tails need attention. Their purpose is the stabilise the kite by pulling on the bottom tip of the sail. They also improve to look by colour and design. Tissue paper 'bow-ties' work well by creating the necessary drag with little weight.

If the tail is very long it may be too heavy in light wind; if too short, the kite may spin. Start with twice the height of the kite, then it is a judgement: be ready to trim it on the day.

The kite string needs to be as light as possible and a button-cord is perfect. Fishing line would also serve if there is a bobbin in the cupboard not doing anything.

Take a picture of your kite and another with you flying it. Enjoy!

Materials: 2 lengths of cane – one 45cm, one 30cm (the top ends of garden canes); twine and tissue paper.

What to do:

- Cut or file a groove in the centre of one side of the 30cm cane, and a similar groove 15cm from the end of the 45cm cane.
- Bind the two canes together to form a cross.
- Make a shallow saw cut in the ends of both canes so that a length of twine will stay put when stretched around the frame.
- Place this on a piece of aircraft tissue paper or light polythene and cut it out with a 5cm overlap all round.
- Add glue to these overlaps and fold them over the twine to the back of the kite.
- Make the tail from 8cm lengths of tissue paper tied at the centre (to make a 'bow-tie') and fix about 20cm apart.
- When you fasten the kite line, do it as shown in the drawing.

Covid 19 Discipline

OBSERVE SOCIAL DISTANCE

Beavers/ Cubs:

Must be with responsible adult

Scouts/ Explorers:

Parents must be informed.
Work with a friend.