



Credit: TopFoto

# Making kites

This design and technology activity uses simple materials to build a kite and shows how energy from the wind can be harnessed to make it fly.

## You will need

- Thin dowel
- Coloured plastic (plastic bags)
- Paper
- Tissue paper
- PVA glue
- Lots of nylon thread
- Pencils and permanent markers
- A real kite

## Steps

1

Look at one or two real kites. Notice that a kite's materials are strong *and* light.

2

On the paper, design your kite to scale. Include shape, colour and how you will join the two dowels together.

3

Give the kite a name (connect the name to the wind if you can).

4

Make the kite. Make sure all the connections are secure by tying them together or fixing them with glue or tape. This part is very important and the joints should be thoroughly tested. Add a tail for stability.

5

Wait a while for the kite to dry (if needed) then test your kite. If there is a breeze or a wind, find the direction it is blowing in.

## Analysis/ discussion

**How far does the kite fly? What happens if you take the tail off? (If it won't fly try joining the string to the kite in different places.)**

**Can you feel the energy in the wind pulling on you via the kite?**