

THINKER TANK

Project of the Week:

Parachute People

Hello My Thinker Tank Friends,

This project promise to give you a fun toy you have made yourself.

Here's something to think about:

What is a parachute? A parachute is an umbrella-shaped device of light fabric used especially for making a safe landing because someone's life is dependent on it getting them to the ground safely.

Due to the resistance of air, a drag force acts on a falling body (parachute) to slow down its motion. Without air resistance a parachute provides objects would continue to increase speed until they hit the ground.

Materials needed (always ask for permission to use):

- **Pick one for one for Parachute (the canopy):**
- Plastic bags
- tissue paper
- Napkins
- Coffee filter
- construction paper or paper
- newspaper
- paper towels
- toilet paper or paper towel rolls
- **Pick one for one for a parachute person (the payload):**
- Popsicle sticks to make a person
- Small toy or stuffed animal
- Cup
- Clothes pin
- Any think you can think of to make a Parachute Person.
- **Materials to Attach to**
- String or yarn or thread
- Tape or hole puncher.
- **Other materials you may need:**
- scissors
- weights (such as washers)
- measuring tape (to measure drop height)
- ruler



1Parachute People





Parachute Construction

1. Gather your material for the canopy,
2. Now you will need some string and a way to attach the string to the canopy like tape. Lastly the payload like a popsicle stick person.
3. Now cut 4 pieces of string equal size about 12 to 18 inches and tape them at equal distances around the edge of the shape. Cut a shape either a circle or a square or a rectangle. **Remember to use a large canopy to increase air resistance. This gives a slow fall and a soft landing.**
4. Now attach your person (payload) to the end of the 4 strings by tying or taping.
5. Now go play with your parachute person and think about
 - a) Different ways to drop it.
 - b) Adding weights like washers.
 - c) Test out different canopies
 - d) Test out different types of payload to replace your person.
 - e) Have a grown up take a video of your experiment.

Here are some videos to get you thinking.

1. [Thinker Video](#)
2. [Thinker Video 2](#)
3. [Thinker Video 3](#)

Now go make 1 then make another and another till you have all different types of...

Parachute People.

