

# HOW TO MAKE A ONE STRAW KITE

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Originally presented to NEWEST participants by Les Gold, NASA Educator, KSC

This activity was one that really engaged my fifth grade class. It involves standards including measurement, making a model, geometry, design, controlling variables and predicting. It is interesting to see that students *do* have difficulty following directions and the activity gives an opportunity to practice this skill, as well as others, while creating something they can use immediately. After we made the kite, we went outside on a beautiful March day and had a wonderful time with these simple kites.

## Follow-up discussion included:

- what happens with/without a tail? (some fell off outdoors)
- does it matter if the tail and straw are reversed? (about one fourth of the students put them on opposite sides - they did not check the diagram)
- does a longer tail help it fly better?

I have done some minor editing of the original directions to help clarify some of the questions that came up with my students.

Pick a good clear day with some gentle wind and you will find a wonderful activity awaits you and your students!

## Materials Needed:

- paper
- scissors
- straws
- thread or string
- clear tape
- rulers (metric)
- wooden sticks - popsicle sticks or small sticks found outdoors (optional - used to wind string around)
- crayons or markers (optional - for decorating paper)
- hole punch (optional - can be done with pencil)

Extensions: explore with an extra tail, heavier paper, etc

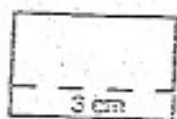
# HOW TO MAKE A ONE STRAW KITE

## READ DIRECTIONS CAREFULLY

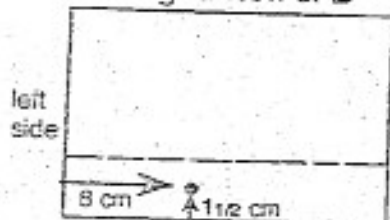
Take a sheet of paper, 28 by 21.5 centimeters, and fold it in half from bottom to top. Optional: decorate the paper first with markers, crayons, etc.



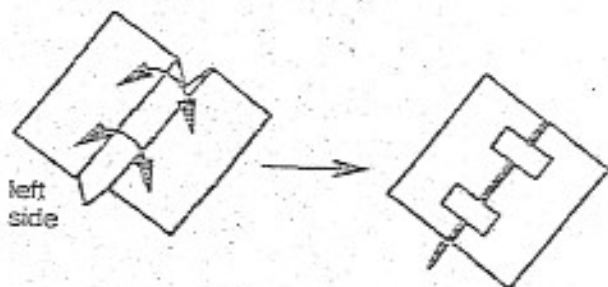
Keep the paper folded. 3 centimeters from the fold draw a line across the paper. Fold back and forth on the line.



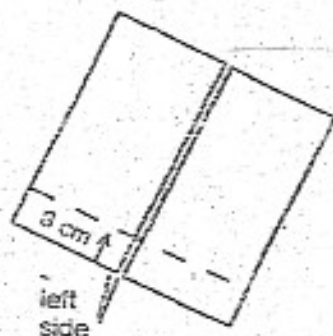
Enlarged view of B



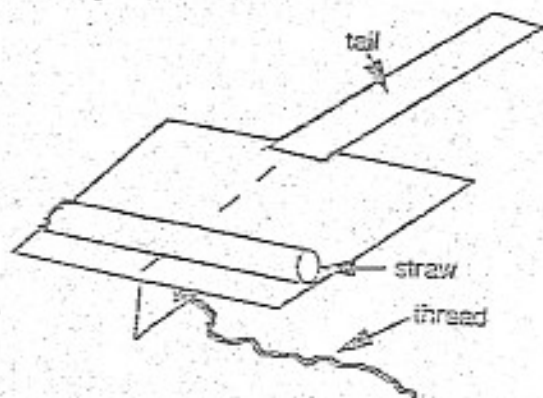
Keep the paper folded. Draw a large dot 8 centimeters from the left side and 1.5 centimeters from the bottom. Put a piece of clear tape over the dot and make a hole through the dot and tape. Pull one end of the thread through the hole and tie it.



Hold the paper at the bottom fold. Close the top section together and tape closed.



Draw a line across the top which is 3 centimeters from the LEFT side. Tape a straw on this line. (Straw is taped on end closest to the hole.)



Make a tail for the kite by cutting a sheet of paper into six strips, each being 3.5 centimeters wide. Tape the strips end to end to create a long tail. Tape the tail on the opposite end of the kite from the straw.

GO FLY YOUR KITE AND HAVE FUN!!