

FLY A KITE

Build your own kite and send it soaring.

YOU'LL NEED:

- scissors
- tape
- a thick plastic bag
- 3 fat drinking straws
- a ball of strong string
- a pen
- a ruler

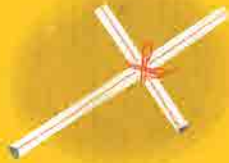
1

Cut the end of one straw on a slant. Insert this pointy end halfway inside another straw to make a longer straw.



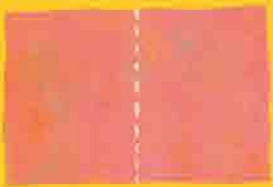
2

Tie the long straw that you've made and a third straw together into a cross, like this.



3

Cut the bag open to make a large rectangular piece of plastic, and fold it in half.



4

lay the cross along the fold. Using a pen and ruler, draw lines to connect the three ends of the straws. Cut along the lines.



5

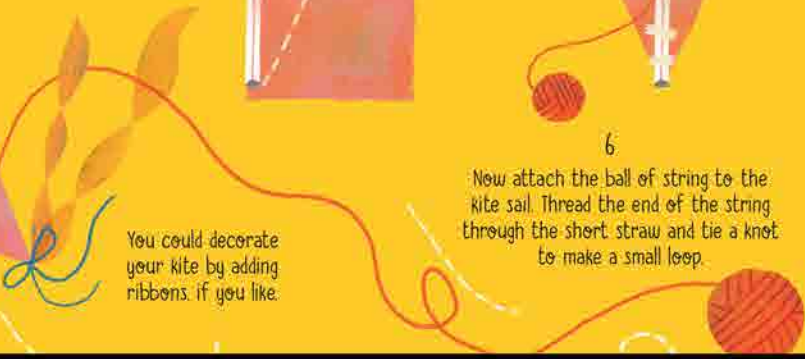
Unfold the plastic and stick the four ends of the cross to the corners with enough tape, so they're well stuck. This is your kite sail.



6

Now attach the ball of string to the kite sail. Thread the end of the string through the short straw and tie a knot to make a small loop.

You could decorate your kite by adding ribbons, if you like.



HOW TO FLY IT

first, unravel about 10m (30ft) of string.

WHEN? On a dry, windy day

WHERE? Away from trees, traffic and electric lines

Ask someone to hold the kite and let it go...



...while you run as fast as you can into the wind, tugging the string.



Once your kite is flying, unwind more string to let it go higher.



The first kites were made in China about 2,300 years ago.

In 1982, a team of kite flyers in America flew a kite continuously for 180 hours - that's over a week!

One of the largest kites ever flown was designed to look like the flag of Kuwait.

THE BOY WHO FLEW...

According to legend, long, long ago in Japan...



Minamoto no Tametomo, a samurai warrior, was banished to an island with his son. His crime: disobeying the emperor.

You can't spend your life here.



Minamoto knew his son had to escape, but how? They began building an enormous kite.

Then one day, when the wind was just right...



...Minamoto tied his son to the kite and flew him all the way to the mainland.