

# PARACHUTES!

Parachutes are umbrella-shaped devices made of lightweight material. They are used to help soften landings for humans, aircraft, and spacecraft. Using everyday objects you can design your own!



## Materials needed:

- Lightweight material such as a plastic bag or silk fabric
- String
- Tape
- Carry cargo such as a Lego person
- Scissors

## Directions:

1. With adult supervision, cut out a large circle, square, octagon, or other shape from your selected material.
2. Cut out one or more holes in the center of your parachute
3. Use tape to attach pieces of string that are the same length to your parachute
4. Tape or tie the pieces of string to your carry cargo
5. Drop your parachute from a high spot. Remember that you want it to drop as slowly as possible and hit a landing spot (target).

## Explanation:

Hopefully, your parachute will descend slowly to the ground, giving your “person” a soft landing. When you release the parachute, the cargo pulls down the strings and opens up a large surface area of material that uses air resistance to slow it down. The larger the surface area the more air resistance and the slower the parachute will drop. Cutting a small hole in the middle of the parachute will allow air to slowly pass through it rather than spilling out over one side, helping the parachute fall straighter.