

Design a Kite

- Paper plates
- Markers
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- Yarn or other string
- Scrap fabric
- Craft sticks



1. Start by tracing anything round in the center of your paper plate and cutting out a hole with scissors.
2. Get out your hole punch and add some holes to the plate.
3. Decorate your kite!
4. Add a long piece of yarn to the punched hole that is close to the outer edge. Tie on pieces of scrap fabric to make a fun kite tail. Any extra yarn and fabric will work for this part of the kite.
5. Next you need to make it a kite! Add some kite string through the two remaining holes as shown at right and tie.
6. Unwind a long piece of string and cut. Then wrap around a craft stick. This will keep your string neat and give you something to hold onto when flying the kite. NOTE: Tie the very end of your kite string to the craft stick to prevent the kite from blowing away in heavy winds.
7. Head out and give your new kite a test drive!



How Do Kites Fly?

A kite flies because the wind pushes it. The wind exerts a force on the kite. You can feel this force when you stand with the kite in the wind. The wind pushes the kite (and you). When the kite is flying there are three forces in action. There is the force from the kite string, the force of the wind and the force of gravity.

- The force of the wind pushes the kite upwards and backwards.
- The force of the kite string pushes the kite forwards and downwards.
- The force of gravity pulls the kite straight down to the ground.