

HOME MADE PARACHUTE

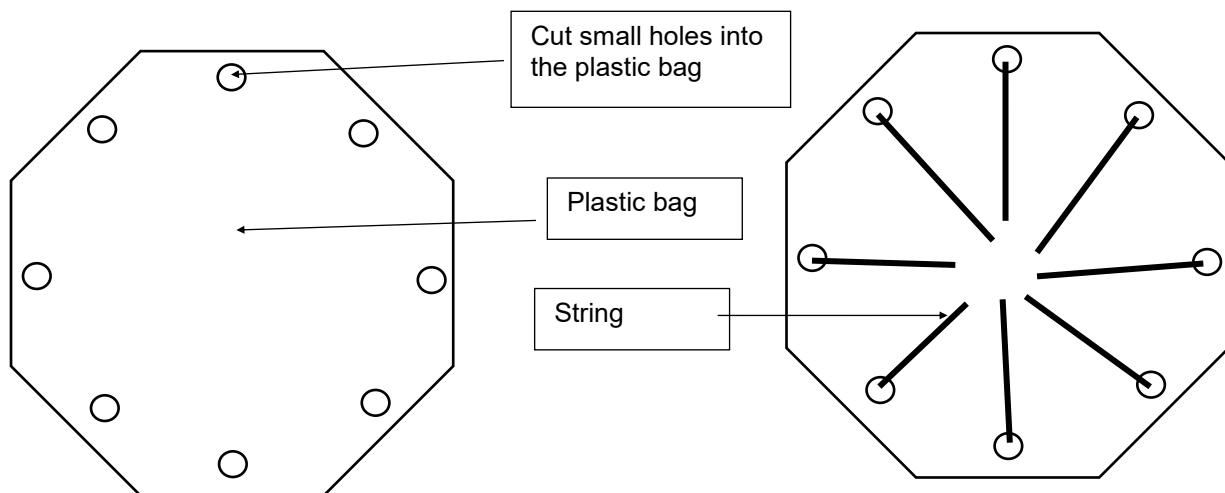
What you'll need:

- A plastic bag or light material
- Scissors
- String
- A small object to act as the weight - a little action figure would be perfect



Instructions:

- Cut out a large square from your plastic bag or material.
- Trim the edges so it looks like an octagon (an eight sided shape).
- Cut a small hole near the edge of each side. (A hole punch is good for this)
- Cut your piece of string to 8 equal length pieces.
- Tie a piece of string to each hole in the plastic bag
- Tie the other end of the piece of string to the object you are using as a weight.
- Use a chair or find a high spot to drop your parachute and test how well it worked. Remember that you want it to fall as slowly as possible.



You can try different weights, different sized plastic bags, different lengths of string to see how each one affects the flight of the parachute.

What's happening?

Hopefully your parachute will descend slowly to the ground, giving your weight a comfortable landing. When you release the parachute, the weight pulls down on the strings and this opens 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, this should help the parachute fall straighter.

