Looking for Lift

You need
- kite materials (2 drinking straws, sticky tape, scissors, string, a hole punch, a paper clip, paper)
- a metre ruler
- classmates

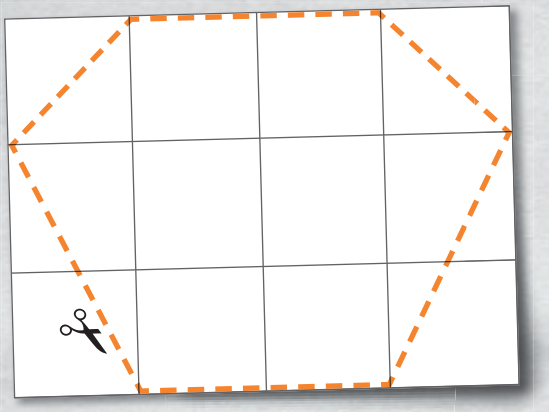
TECHNOLOGY

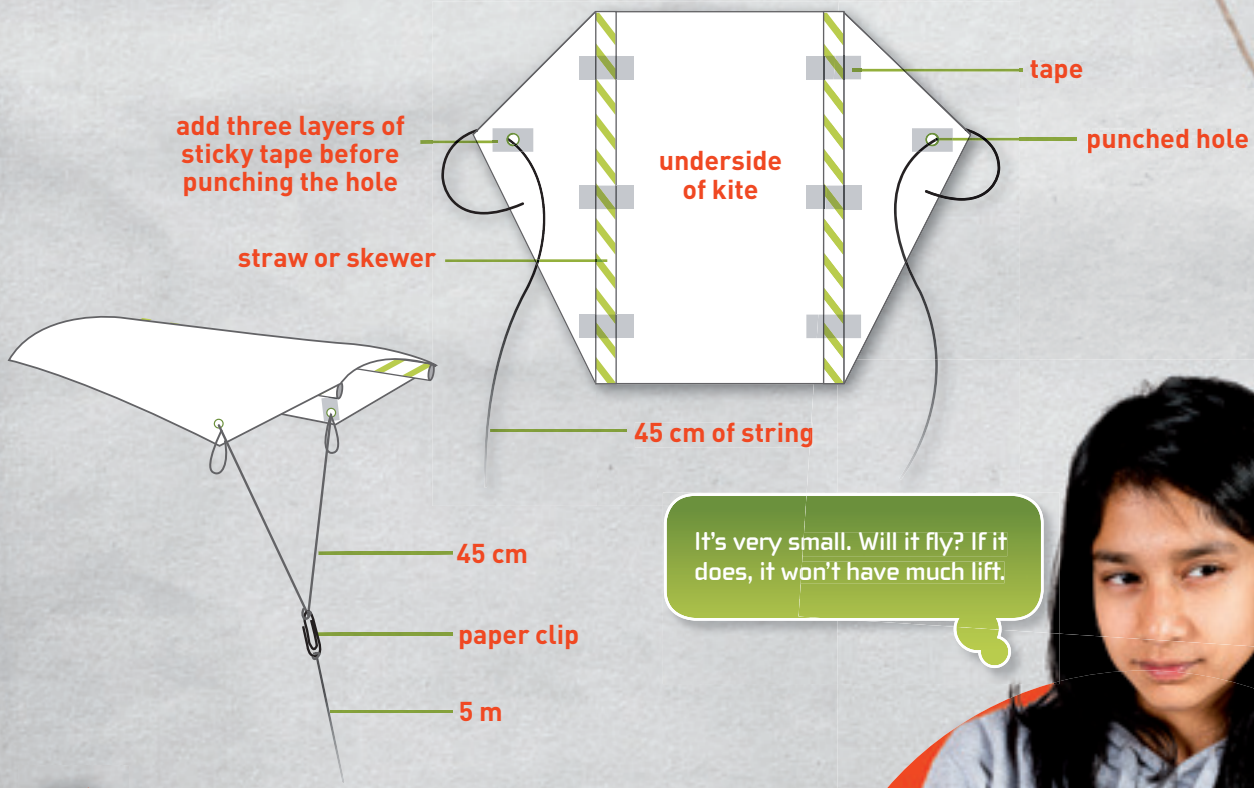
Lift is the force that gets a kite off the ground and keeps it in the air. A kite gains lift from air flowing over and under its wings.

Activity

Hasini is making a sled kite using instructions from the Internet.

1. With a classmate, follow the instructions to make a small sled kite.





2. Fly the kite outside on a day with a steady breeze (not in a gale). Have fun!

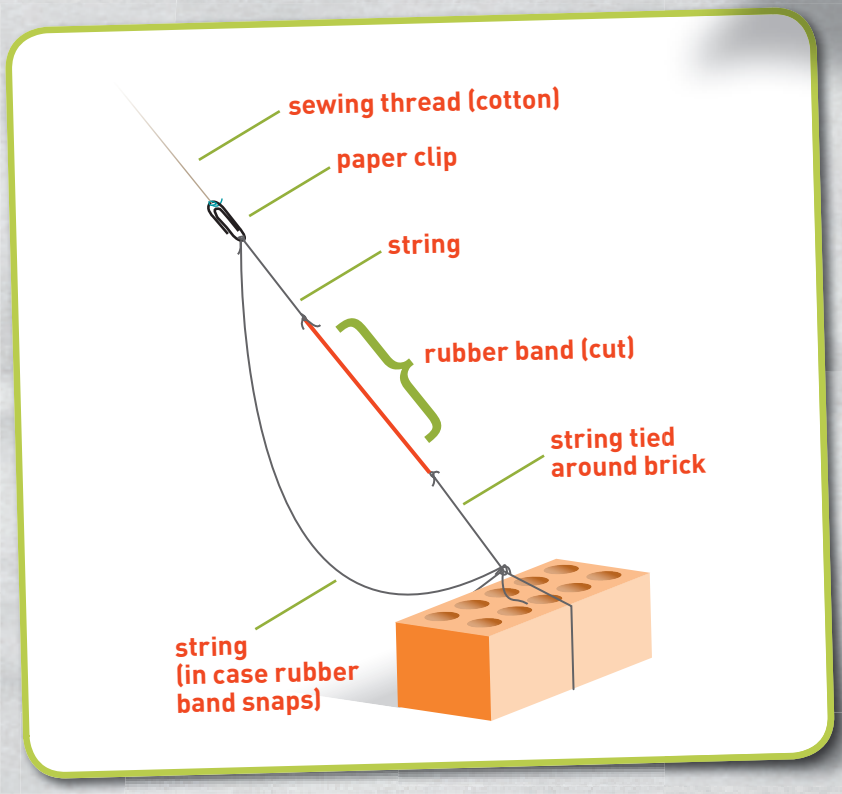
3. Hasini thinks that lift is related to size: the bigger the kite, the greater the lift. She decides to find out whether this is true.

a. Make a second kite in which all lengths are double (or half) those in your first kite.

b. Compare the perimeters and areas of the two kites. What relationship can you see?

c. Fly your second kite. Does it have more (or less) lift? How do you know?

4. Hasini invents a way to measure lift.
How do you think Hasini's device works?
How can it provide data on lift?



5. a. Using this idea or your own, make a device to measure lift.

b. Use the device to measure the lift of your two kites. Record your findings.

c. Share your findings with the class. Explain the method you used and any difficulties you had to overcome.