

## OSU Extension Lorain County 4-H School Enrichment Outreach

# Just Go Fly a Kite!!

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## It's finally SPRING and a great time to get outside and fly a kite!

You don't have a kite? No problem! There are loads of kite patterns, or templates online for you to use as a plan. OR, you could make up your own after learning more about kites. **Let's get started!**

### Making a kite is an Engineering Design Challenge. *You've done that before!*

1. an idea
2. plan it one way
3. test it
4. make it another way
5. retest it
6. then wonder...



- What did each step teach me?
- What worked and didn't work?

It's a **CYCLE**. Redesign and test until you get **YOUR** desired result!

**WHAT makes a kite fly?** Let's look at some characteristics that most kites have That enable them to work.

- A **flat surface** the wind can catch to create **LIFT**.
- A **string**, attached in a way that provides **STABILITY**
- One or more **tails** to create **DRAW** and provide added stability.
- A **frame** that provides structure to your design.

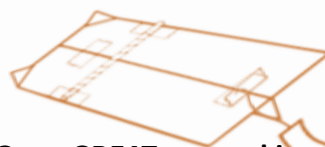
**Your challenge:** Build a kite of your own then investigate how each of the characteristics of your design work together.

**Remember to start with an idea, create, test, redesign, recreate, and retest.**

In engineering design, it's all about learning what **DOESN'T** work to guide us to what **DOES** work!  
The Engineering Design Process is a cycle.

**Suggestions for materials:** *Get creative!!*

- **Flat surface** – copy paper, wrapping paper, paper bags, plastic bags, trash bags – if not big enough, tape together!
- **String** – cotton string, yarn, fishing string, thick thread – Several yards so you can run, and your kite can fly into the air. Wrap it around a tube, card, or stick.
- **Tail(s)** – plastic cut into strips, ribbon, crepe paper, lightweight fabric strips
- **Frame** – straws – stick and tape the ends into each other to make them longer, BBQ skewers, sticks, dowels, etc.



Get a **GREAT** starter kite pattern from Ohio 4-H.  
<https://ohio4h.org/10-minute-science>

Along with loads of other **fun and hands-on science activities**, you'll find [the Learn to Fly Kite Pattern.](#)

