

Paper Maple Key Seed

Many plants have seeds that move to new sprouting spots by wind including maple trees. Use these instructions to create a model of a maple key to discover how it flies.

Location: Anywhere

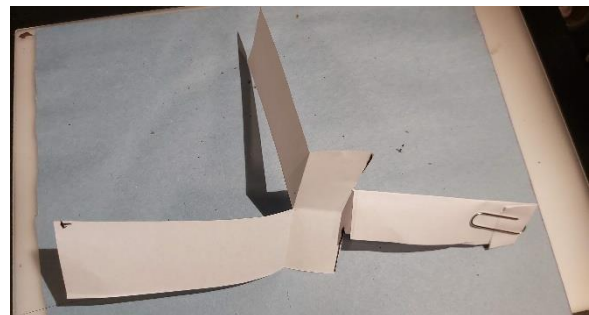
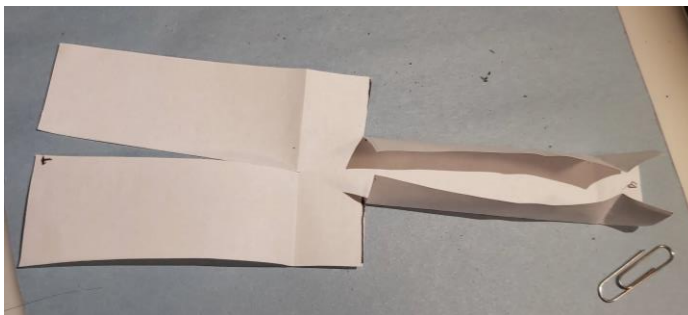
Recommended Ages: 8+

Materials:

- Paper helicopter seed template
- Scissors
- Paper clip

Activity:

1. Cut out one of the four templates.
2. Cut the solid lines only.
3. Fold section C along dotted lines over section E
4. Fold section D along dotted lines over section C/E.
5. Fold section A along dotted line towards you.
6. Fold section B along dotted line away from you.
7. Fold the edge of section C/D/E towards you.
8. Hold to that together with a paper clip.
9. To launch your maple key seed (helicopter), throw it up and away from you.



STEM Extension:

Here are some challenges and questions for you to tackle through experimentation.

1. Can you make it stay up in the air longer?
2. Can you make it rotate faster or slower?
3. How does it change if you make it smaller or larger?
4. How does it change if you make it with different paper?
5. What would happen if you changed the weight at the bottom, that is, replaced the paper clip with something else?

