

- Suggested story concept
- Researched and wrote story and instructions
- Developed diagrams

## The Five-Minute Kite

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TEXT BY JO CALVERT

Make this  
mini-kite in  
minutes – and  
with stuff  
that's around  
your house or  
cottage – then  
go outside  
and play.



## Kite for Light Winds

### YOU NEED:

Standard sheet of 8½- x 11-in paper (recycle a piece of artwork, correspondence or junk mail, or print out a photo from your computer)

Bamboo barbecue skewer

¾-in wide clear tape

Large plastic garbage bag

Spool of strong thread

15 cm (6-in) length of ¼-in dowel or pencil that fits through hole in spool

2 elastic bands

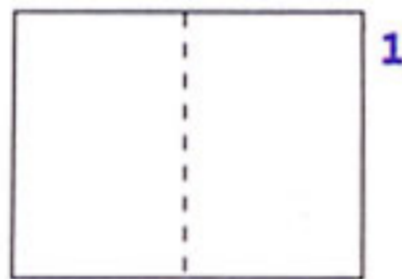
Old scissors, small-hole punch and ruler



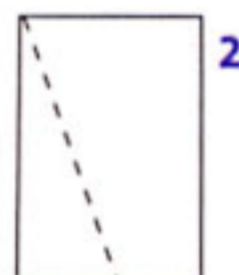
### TO MAKE:

**NOTE:** Refer to step-by-step diagrams as you work.

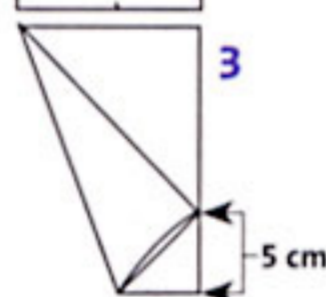
**1** With blank side to inside, fold sheet in half so short edges are even; run thumb along fold to crease.



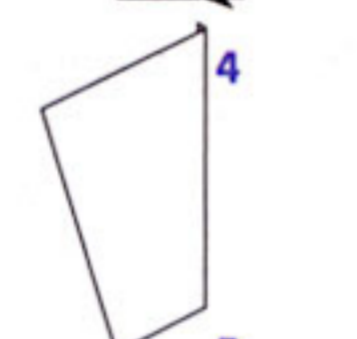
**2** Fold again where shown by broken line, so corner is even with edge, to shape long triangular keel.



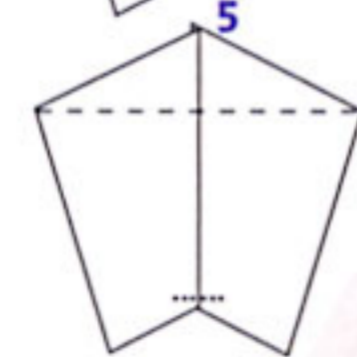
**3** Now your folded paper looks like this.



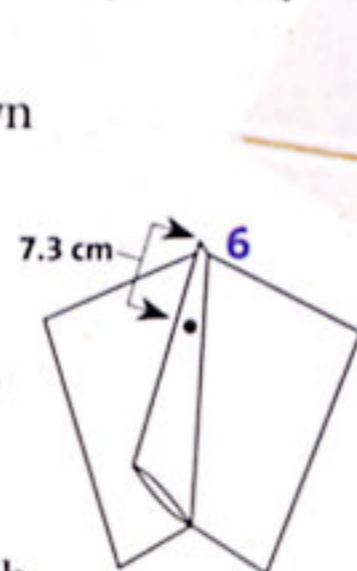
**4** Turn over, so second fold is right-hand edge.



**5** Open out top layer along second fold. With scissors, clip sharp end off skewer to make 14 cm (5½-in) spar; with 1 long strip, tape spar across sail where shown by broken line. Cutting vertically through both layers and leaving bottom fold intact, cut 5 cm (2-in) wide strip from garbage bag for tail; tape 1 end of tail where shown by dotted line.



**6** Turn kite over. About 1 cm (¾ in) from folded edge, punch small hole through keel where shown (reinforce with piece of tape, if desired). Bend keel back and forth until it stands straight up. Push thread end through hole, then tie to make loop, for bridle. Slip spool (will act as reel for kite line) onto dowel, then secure by wrapping each dowel end with elastic.



## FIVE FUN THINGS ABOUT KITES

**1.** When Guglielmo Marconi received the first transatlantic wireless radio signal in 1901, the aerial was held aloft on a kite, above Signal Hill in St. John's, Nfld. (take a 3-D tour of this national historic site at [www.pc.gc.ca/lhn-nhs/nl/signalhill/index\\_e.asp](http://www.pc.gc.ca/lhn-nhs/nl/signalhill/index_e.asp)).

**2.** At Beinn Bhreagh, his summer home on Cape Breton Island, N.S., Alexander Graham Bell liked to design and fly kites, some large enough to lift an adult a hundred feet up. Beinn Bhreagh is part of a national historic site that offers kite-making workshops for kids (find out more at [www.pc.gc.ca/lhn-nhs/ns/grahambell](http://www.pc.gc.ca/lhn-nhs/ns/grahambell)).

**3.** An imaginary kite takes to the sky in the award-winning Canadian

children's book *The Tiny Kite of Eddie Wing* (Stoddart Kids, 1995, hardcover, \$17.95) by Maxine Trottier and Al Van Mil.

**4.** *Elijah's Kite*, a Canadian opera written especially for kids, tells the story of a boy who dreams of escaping schoolyard bullies by flying away on his kite. (To book a performance at your school, contact the nonprofit Prologue to the Performing Arts at [www.prologue.org](http://www.prologue.org).)

**5.** Canada's first kite museum opens this summer at the Heritage Centre on Pelee Island in Ontario.

For a list of Canadian kite clubs and events, visit the *Toronto Kite Fliers* site at [www.tkf.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tkf.toronto.on.ca).