



Parachutes: What They Are and How They Work

By: Michelle Bouslog

EdTech teacher; M.A.Ed. in EdTech, Concordia University St. Paul, MN

Science
Grades K-2



Introduction

What is a parachute? How does it work and what are the uses for it? Students will design and construct a parachute, experimenting with how different designs will affect the function of the parachute.

Learning Objectives

- Students will develop an understanding of the attributes of design and how various features can affect the function.

Materials Needed

- *Parachute* by Danny Parker
- Tissue paper or circular coffee filter
- Tape
- Weight (could be an eraser, a small rock, etc.)
- String
- iPad

Procedure

Day 1

1. Students will listen to the book *Parachute* by Danny Parker. In this story, a boy named Toby carries his parachute with him wherever he goes. This parachute comes in handy for a variety of events. During the reading, the teacher can draw attention to how the parachute helped Toby and was very useful to him. After reading, the teacher should ask the students to reflect on what the parachute looked like. They can show pictures of parachutes from the internet or from books.
2. Students will then go back to their desks and sketch a design for a parachute based on the images of the parachute in the book and shown to them.

Day 2

1. Working either by themselves or with a partner, students will be given various materials they can use to construct their own parachute. Materials should include but are not limited to: string, tissue paper or similar material, a small weight, and tape.

Continued on page 2



Parachutes: What They Are and How They Work

By: Michelle Bouslog

EdTech teacher; M.A.Ed. in EdTech, Concordia University St. Paul, MN

Science
Grades K-2



Continued from page 1

Day 3

1. Students will test their parachutes outside. Teachers can then decide if the students have time to modify and re-test, or if it is time to move into reflecting.

Evaluation

Students will take a picture of their parachute and explain their reasoning for their design. Why did they include various components? Students will also create a video of themselves giving a reflection on how the design helped or hindered the parachute in its flight. What changes would they make next time? What would they be sure to include?