Hands-On Science at Home | Issue 4

Toy Parachute

How can parachutes slow objects as they fall?

Parachutes are used to make something fall slowly from the sky. Let's make our own toy parachute that really works!

Things You Will Need

A bandana, string, scissors, and a small toy





Steps

- 1. Cut four pieces of string, each about 12 inches.
- 2. Tie a piece of string to each corner of the bandana.
- 3. Gather the ends of the strings together and tie them around the small toy.
- 4. Pinch the top of the bandana and let the toy dangle.
- 5. Use a chair or find a high spot and drop your parachute slowly!
- 5. Watch how the parachute lands your toy slowly and safely to the floor.

Takeaway

When you drop the parachute, it fills up with air like a balloon. As it falls, the air pushes on it. That push makes the parachute descend slowly to the ground. When you release the parachute, the weight of your toy pulls down on the strings and opens up the bandana that uses air resistance to slow it down. The larger the bandana, the slower the parachute will drop!

