

Spinning helicopters

5 years and up

Seeds such as sycamore and maple have wings attached to help them to be dispersed (scattered) away from their parent plant, we often call these helicopter seeds.

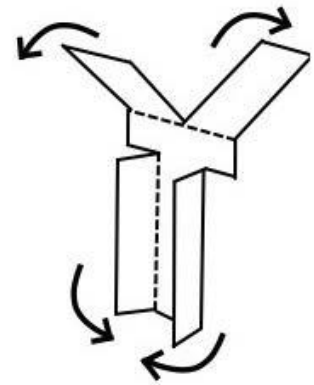
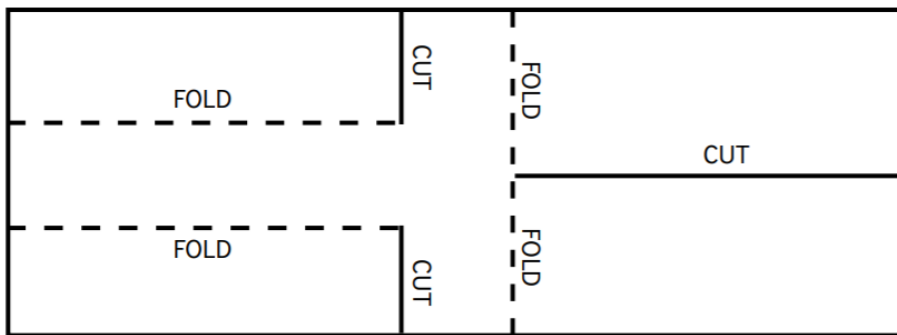
Have a go at making two different types of helicopter seeds from paper to see which can travel furthest.

You will need: Paper, scissors, paper clip, timer

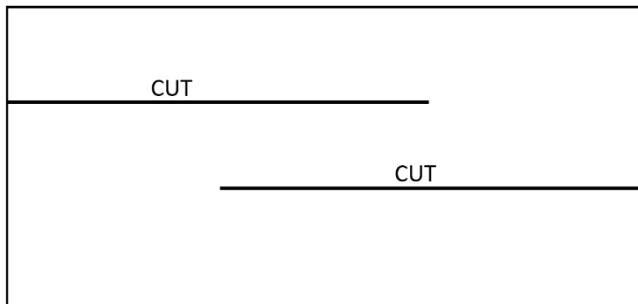
Make the two different designs of helicopter seeds as shown below.



Design 1



Design 2



Drop each helicopter seed from the same height 5 times and time how long each takes to land.

Record your findings in a table (to find the mean average add up all the times and divide by five).

Time taken to land	Test 1	Test 2	Test 3	Test 4	Test 5	Mean average
Design 1						
Design 2						

Which seed could travel furthest from its parent tree?

Why do seeds need to travel away from their parent tree?