Activity 1 Kites around the World

Introduction

People all around the World enjoy flying kites.

- Look at the **Kites of the world** pictures and cut them out.
- Stick your kite pictures on the map of the World to show where they came from.
- Read the box about the spread of kites throughout the World.

  Draw arrows on your map to show how kites may have spread out from China. Put the letters **A**, **B**, **C**, **D**, **E**, **F**, **G** and **H** on your arrows to show where they came from.

We think the first kites were made and flown in China and Japan more than 2000 years ago **(A)**.

From these countries they may have spread south to Malaysia **(B)**.

Then they spread to the countries and islands of the Pacific Ocean **(C)**.

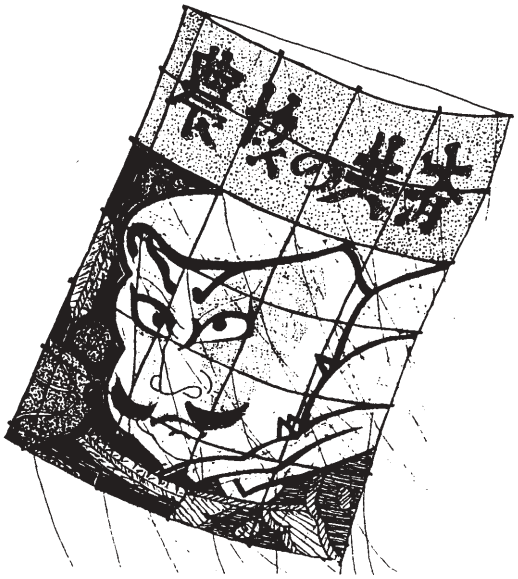
They may have travelled overland through Asia to Arabia (**D**) and North Africa **(E)**.

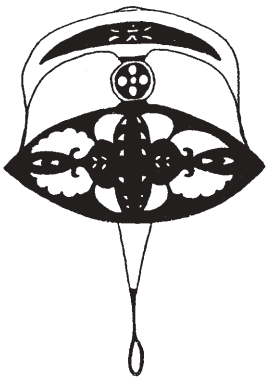
Kite designs may have reached Europe by:

- sea traders (**F**)
- overland by peoples invading through what used to be the USSR **(G)**, or
- by traders from Arabia to Europe **(H)**.

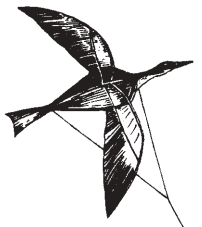
1 Kites of the World

Japanese giant kite

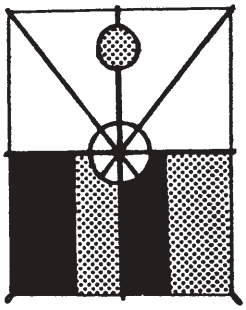




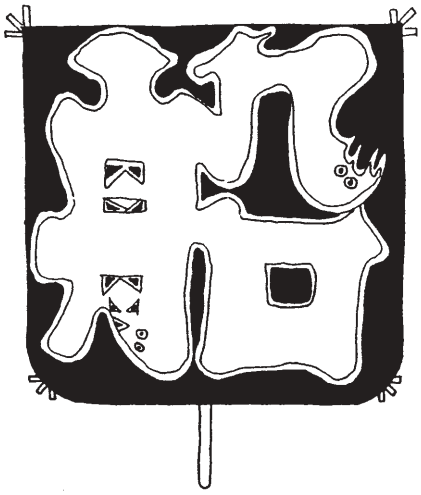
Malaysian moon kite



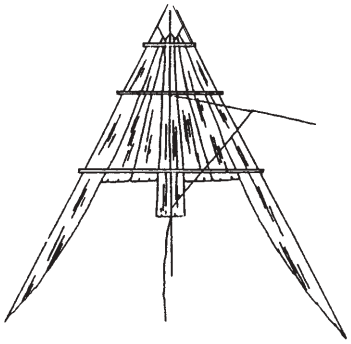
Chinese bird kite



Korean skirt kite

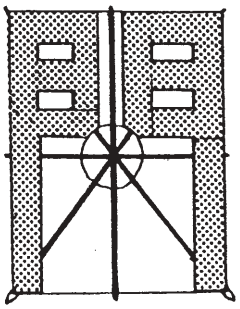


Japanese fighting kite



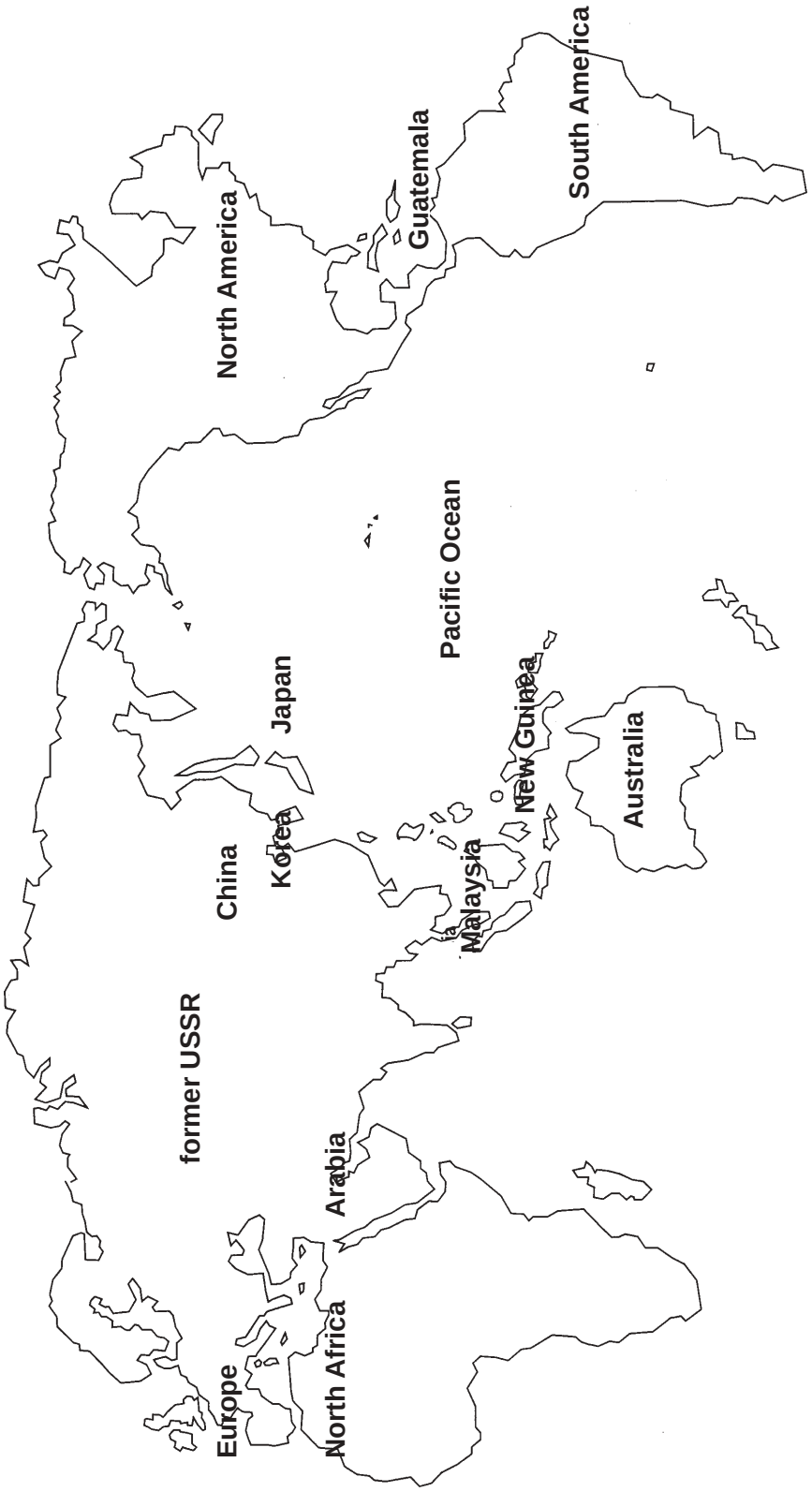
New Guinea fishing kite

Giant Guatamalan kite



Korean gate kite

1 How kites may have spread



Activity 2 How does a kite fly?

You will need

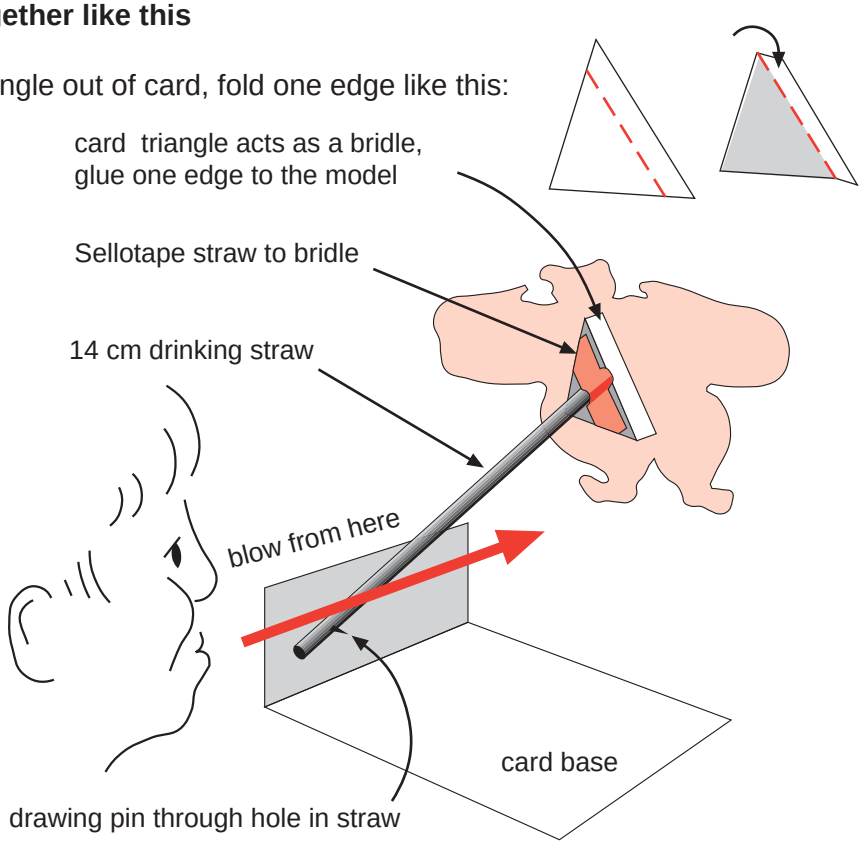
- card
- drawing pin
- clear sticky tape
- glue
- drinking straw
- scissors

Cut out the picture of a Chinese figure kite on the next page.

That kite was made rigid with bamboo struts but your model is rigid enough.

Fix it together like this

Cut a triangle out of card, fold one edge like this:



Blow hard on your kite model and see it lift into the air.

Think of the forces on your kite

- The straw pulls the kite towards you.
- The 'wind' (your blow) pushes the kite away from you and upwards.
- Now use your finger to act the pushing force of the 'wind'.

2 How does a kite fly?

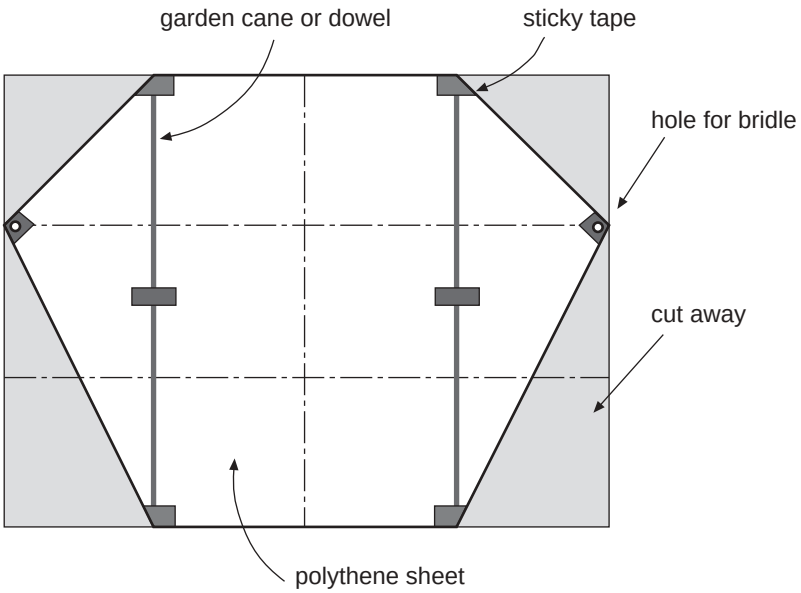
1 **Does the kite move upwards when your finger pushes level with the desk?**

Draw a picture of your model kite and mark the forces acting on it when the wind 'blows'.

2 **Your model kite has a triangular piece of card for a bridle. What does this do?**

3 **Why do some kites need tails?**

Activity 3 Making a Scott Sled kite

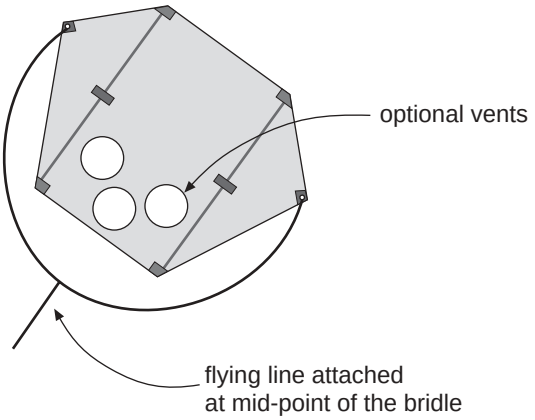


In 1950 William M. Allison in the USA invented a completely new kind of kite. This design was improved by Frank Scott in 1964.

The Scott Sled kite is very simple to make. It can be made almost any size using the shape shown here.

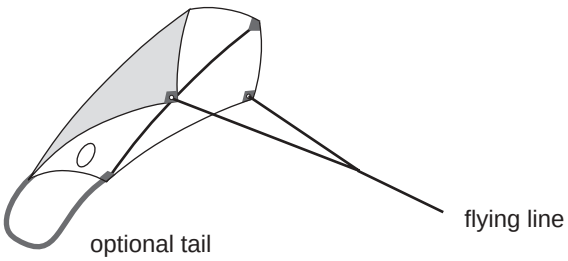
Using the squares for guidance, make a large copy of this shape on a polythene bin liner or carrier bag.

Use sticky tape to fix the rods in place and to strengthen the corners where the bridle lines are attached. You could try vents (holes) in the lower half, or add a strip of polythene as a tail.



Plan your own investigations to see if the shape and number of vents in the bottom half of the kite affect the way in which the kite flies.

Does the type of tail you add make any difference?



In each investigation

- **What will you change?**
- **What will you keep the same?**
- **What will you look for, or measure?**
- **How will you record your observations?**
- **What is the question you are trying to answer?**