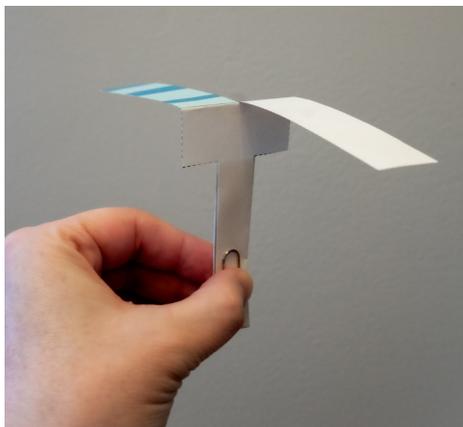


Are you looking for something to do to keep your brain active and engaged? We're here to help with Science at Home! You can do these fun science activities using commonly found items. You can also visit us at the Museum's [Science at Home](#) page for additional resources.

## Nature's Helicopters



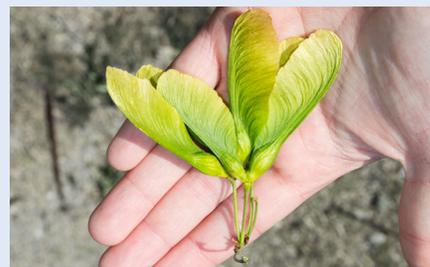
### Materials Needed:

A piece of paper 8" x 2"

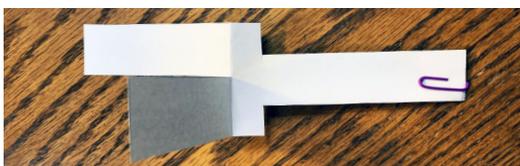
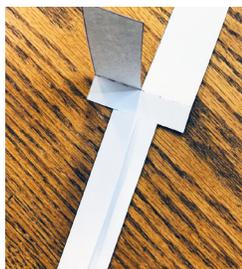
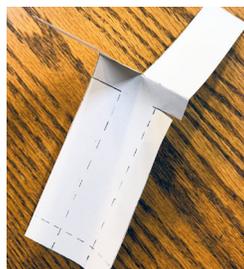
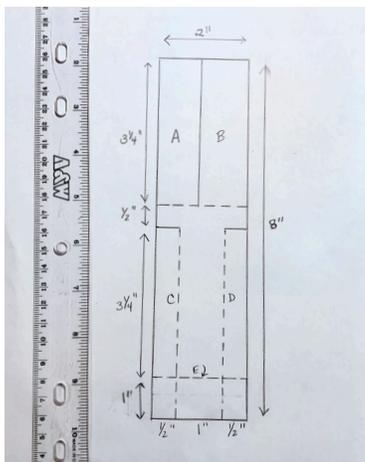
A paper clip

### Everyday Connections

Plants of all sizes have evolved ingenious ways to disperse their seeds away from the parent plant. Depending on the species of plant, seeds can be spread by gravity, water, animals, wind, or even by structures on the plant itself designed to throw seeds into the air! Humans have learned a lot from studying designs found in nature. Using this pattern, you can build and fly your own paper helicopter inspired by the twirling maple seed!



### Instructions:



1. Follow the pattern shown. Cut along the solid lines and then fold on the dotted lines.
2. Fold A forward and B backward. Fold C in and overlap it with D. When C and D are folded, fold upward at E.
3. Put a paper clip over the folded part E.
4. Holding it with E towards the ground, lift your paper helicopter above your head and drop it.
5. **Experiment!** Do new designs change the helicopter's flight?
  - i. Try longer or shorter wings or stems.
  - ii. Add more paper clips to the stem, or fly it without a paper clip.

### Having Fun?

We want to see! Tag [@naturalsciences](#) on social media, so we can see you and your loved ones enjoying our Science at Home activities.