

ChicagoHistoryMuseum

Windy City Kites

READ:

Chicagoans are used to living in the Windy City! The city earned this nickname for bragging when it was trying to be chosen as the host city for the World's Fair of 1893, but today we associate it with our weather. The strongest wind gusts recorded in the city are 88 miles per hour at Midway Airport in 1965. Architects design skyscrapers with features to stay safe in Chicago's strong winds. The Chicago History Museum even has a wind test model of Willis Tower (Sears Tower) on display! Even with this planning, the average sway of the Willis Tower is 6 inches, but the building is designed to safely sway up to 3 feet! One thing windy weather is good for though, is kite flying!

DO:

- **Make** a paper bag kite! Cut the bottom out of the paper bag.
- **Decorate** the bag by coloring designs, patterns and pictures. If you have stickers you can add them to your design.
- **Cut** streamers or ribbon in different lengths and tape them to the inside on one end of your bag.
- **Cut** string or yarn in a long length (this is what you will hold when you fly your kite) and tape it to the inside of the bag on the opposite end from the streamers/ribbons.
- **Fly** your kite! Hold the string and run. Your kite will fill with air and fly behind you!

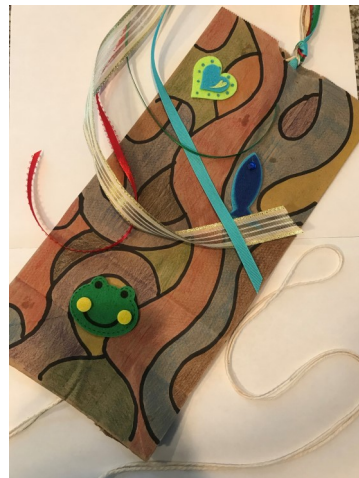
Approx. Time: 30—45 minutes

Materials:

- ⇒ Coloring Supplies
- ⇒ Paper Bag
- ⇒ Crepe paper streamers or ribbon
- ⇒ Tape
- ⇒ String or Yarn
- ⇒ Scissors
- ⇒ Stickers (optional)

SHARE:

- **Post** pictures of your kite and you flying your kite on social media with the hashtag #CHMatHomeFamilies.



Sample Kite by CHM Education Department.