

Paper Kite Craft Activity – Inspired by Ben Franklin

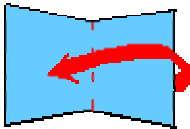
From an original Franklin Stove, to static electricity generators, to a pair of old bifocal eyeglasses, the Mercer Museum contains a number of artifacts that relate to the imagination and inventive genius of Benjamin Franklin. And speaking of electricity, here's a craft activity inspired by Franklin's experiment with a kite and key in a thunderstorm in 1752.

SOME FUN FACTS:

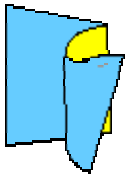
- In 1752, Ben Franklin was convinced that lightning and electricity were one in the same.
- He decided to fly a kite into the heart of a storm to prove his theory.
- His kite was made of silk, a small miniature metal rod, and some hemp twine.
- At the bottom he attached a brass key to the hemp twine. This would absorb any electrical charge that would run down the string.

ACTIVITY:

1. Give children a piece of 8 ½ X 11 paper. Allow them to decorate the paper before they begin to make their kite.
2. Fold the paper in half.



3. Turn one side of the paper down, in a curve. Staple it to the center fold.



4. Turn the other side down the opposite way. Staple it to the center fold.



5. Put a piece of strong tape on the center of the kite, approx. 3" from the tip. Punch a hole through the tape.



6. Tie a string or yarn through the hole... You now have a quick kite!

