

Flower Pinwheel

Activity Summary

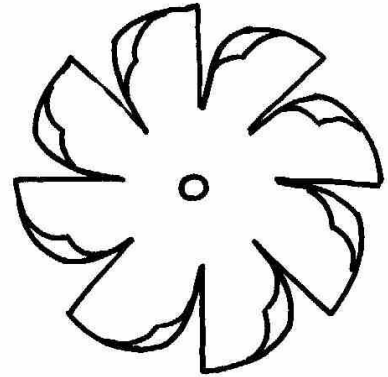
Participants make a pinwheel that spins freely in a breeze.

Class time: 30-45 minutes

Grade level: grades 2-5

Learning Objective

Wind can move objects.

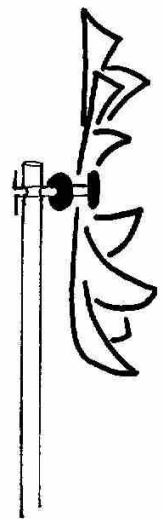
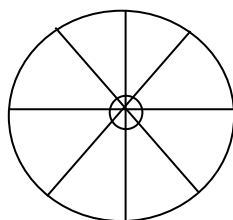


Materials Needed

- CD (for tracing)
- Half sheet of card stock
- Ruler
- Paper fastener (brad)
- Bead large enough to string on the brad
- Straw
- Hole puncher
- Scissors
- Pencils, Crayons, Markers
- Electric fan for testing the movement

Activity

1. Distribute cardstock pieces, CDs, pencils, rulers and markers.
2. Instruct the participants to trace outer and inner circle of the CD onto the paper. Draw a small point at the center of the smaller circle. Use a ruler to make 4 evenly spaced lines across the center of the circle, from one side to the other, resulting in 8 equal sized segments.



3. Use markers to decorate it, making sure that the 8 lines remain visible.
4. Cut out the paper disk.
5. Cut each of the 8 lines halfway to the center of the circle.
6. Curl one point from each petal around a pencil. Make sure all the petals curl the same direction.
7. Punch a hole 1 inch from the end of the straw.
8. String all the pieces onto the paper fastener in the order: flower, bead, straw.
9. Bend the tabs of the paper fastener just enough to hold everything together, but loose enough for the flower to spin.

Test the pinwheels with an electric fan. If no fan is available instruct participants to wave it slowly or hold it while walking forward. If the pinwheels don't work, have the participants problem solve and redesign or modify the toy.

Explanation/Significance

Since we can't see air, it can be difficult for children to understand that air exists and that it is made of 'something'. One way to overcome this challenge is to experience moving air - wind. We can see wind blowing through leaves and fluttering flags. We can feel breezes on our face. We can feel strong winds pull umbrellas out of our hands. In this activity the participants see the effects of wind in the movement of the pinwheel.