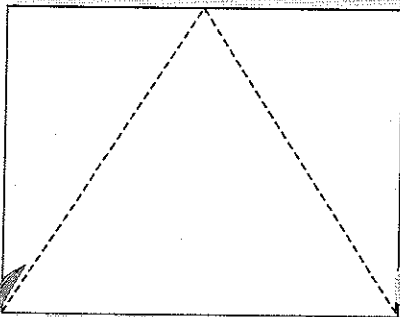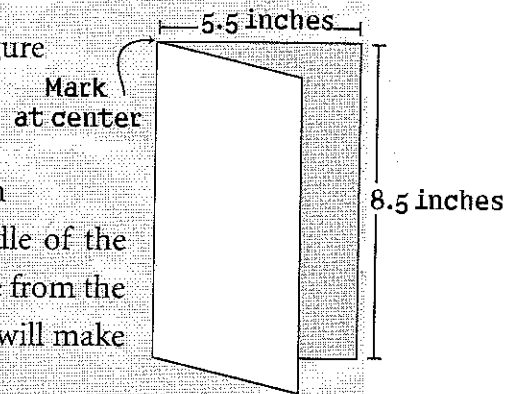**Build It Yourself**

Make Leonardo's Parachute

What you'll need

- four 8½-by-11-inch pieces of paper
- pencil
- ruler
- scissors
- markers/decorations/glue (optional)
- tape (Scotch tape will work best)
- dental floss or fishing line
- a small weight like a bolt, washers, or an action figure

Mark at center — 5.5 inches — 8.5 inches

What to do

1. Take one of the pieces of paper and fold it in half, widthwise. Use your pencil to mark the middle of the page. Unfold it. Using your ruler, draw a straight line from the middle mark to the bottom corners of the paper. It will make a triangle.
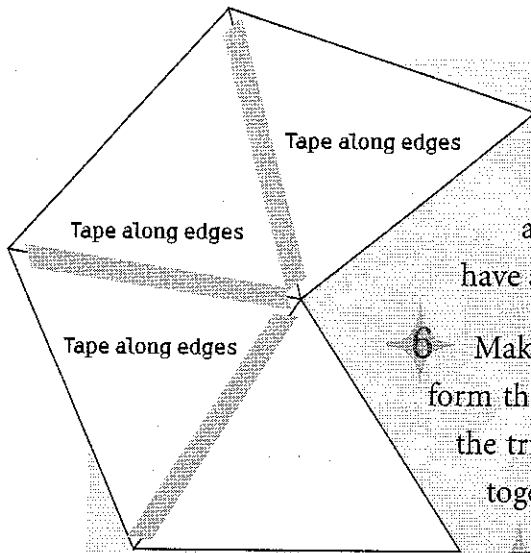
2. Do the same with the other three pieces of paper.

3. Now cut out all four triangles.

4. If you would like to decorate your triangles, now is the time to do it. Remember that only one side of the parachute will be seen.

5. Place a piece of tape along one side of one triangle lengthwise so that half the tape is on the triangle and the other half is ready to be taped to something

Cut out triangles

Tape along edges

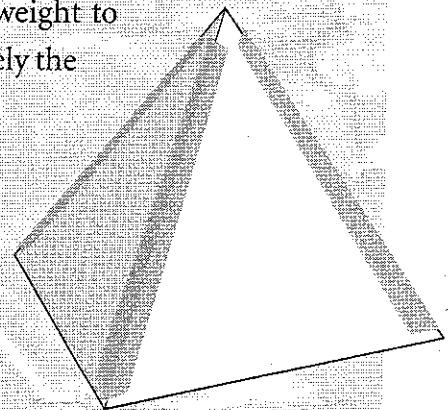Tape along edges

Tape along edges

else. Take another triangle, line one side up with the first triangle. Use the tape to attach the two triangles. Repeat this until you have all four triangles taped together.
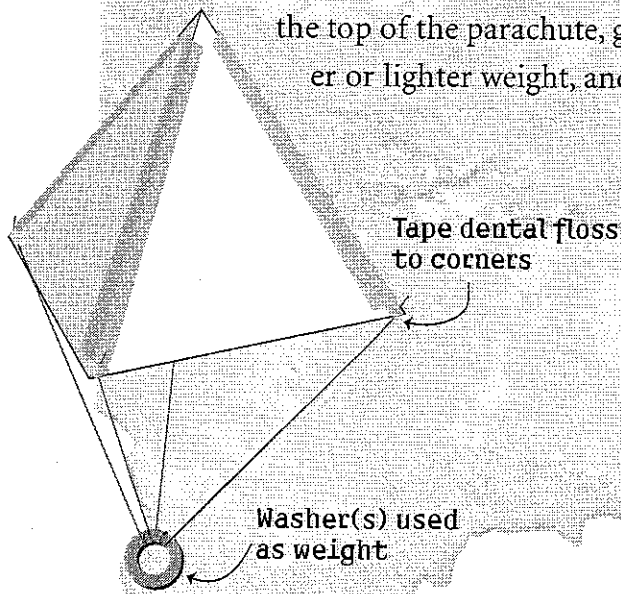
6   Make a crease on each seam of tape. This should form the triangles into a pyramid, with the points of the triangles meeting at the top. Tape the last seam together, so that you have a sturdy pyramid.

7   Next, cut four equal pieces of dental floss, about 12 inches long. Tape one piece to each corner of your parachute. Tie your weight to the floss, making sure each string stays approximately the same length (this will allow for a smoother flight).

8   Test your parachute by throwing it off a balcony or out a window and watch it glide. You can try all sorts of variations: shorten or lengthen the string, cut a small hole in the top of the parachute, get a heavier or lighter weight, and so on.

Tape 4th side together to form pyramid

Tape dental floss to corners

You now have a Leonardo parachute replica.

Washer(s) used as weight