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Kites

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KITES

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When the first March winds begin to blow, few can resist the thought of kites soaring high in the sky. Why not join students in this interest and help them learn about aerodynamics, the history of flight, the history of kites, and how and why kites fly?

In the March/April, 1974 *Science and Activities Magazine* on pages 36-37 there is an article entitled "Science on the Wing: Paper Kites in the Classroom." This article demonstrates how students can make miniature kites, from 8½ x 11 inch sheets of paper that can be flown in the classroom. What a great sendoff to making larger kites to fly outside when the weather becomes nicer.

Last spring several kite manufacturing companies were contacted telling them of an interest in teaching about kites and asking for reference materials or free samples that would be helpful in instructing students. The responses were positive; one company sent all their kites at half price, another sent a free book and several kites. There were some very elaborate and expensive kites being manufactured and two were purchased so the students would have an opportunity to at least fly one at school because few would be able to purchase such kites for their own use. Below are the names and addresses of some of the companies contacted:

Gayla Industries, Box 10800, Houston, Texas 77018.
The Fredericks Company, 8200 Grand Avenue,
South Minneapolis, Minnesota 55420.
Stratton Air Engineering, Los Alamitos, California 90720.
Synestructics, Inc., Chatsworth, California 91311.

Below is a list of books used in the kite unit:

Brummit, W. 1971. *Kites*. Golden Press.
Barwell, E. and B. Conrad. 1972. *How to make and fly kites.* Van Nostrand Reinhold.
Hunt, L. L. 1971. *Twenty-five kites that fly.* Dover Publications.
Ridgway, H. 1969. *Kite making and flying*. Mayflower, London.
Yolen, W. H. 1963. *Young sportsman's guide to kite flying.* Nelson Publishing.

Why not have a contest with the kites made and choose the most unique, fanciest, and the best flyer? Why does the best flyer fly best?