

Parachutes

Approach: Team

Level: Year 8 & year 4

Resources: 3 toy people with parachutes; stop watch; 1 metre ruler; rubber band; 2 laminated activity cards.

	% responses	
	y8	y4
<p>Place materials on the table. Read through the First Activity card with the team, then get them to work through each question. Do the same with the Second Activity card after the first has been completed.</p> <p>In this activity you will be working as a team. You will be finding out about how things fall through the air.</p>		
<p>First Activity (presented orally, and on a card) In this activity you are to try to find out whether the size of a parachute makes a difference to how fast it falls through the air.</p>		
<p>1. Make up a group plan for testing the 3 parachutes.</p>		
	<p>Evidence of good planning to:</p> <p>achieve consistent release 24 9 measure descent time 15 7 replicate trials 4 1 achieve participation 48 34</p> <p>Overall planning rating</p> <p>excellent or very good 12 4 good 24 12 fair or poor 64 84</p>	
<p>2. Try out your plan. Make sure everyone is helping.</p>		
	<p>Evidence of good experimentation</p> <p>consistent release 30 7 accurate timing of descent 24 6 replication of trials 17 3 recording results 26 4</p> <p>Overall experimentation rating</p> <p>excellent or very good 23 5 good 32 11 fair or poor 45 84</p>	
<p>3. Now tell each other what you found out about how fast the 3 parachutes fell through the air? Try to explain why this happened.</p>		
	<p>Reporting to teacher</p> <p>very good 36 14 moderate 54 41 poor 10 45</p>	
<p>Second Activity (presented orally, and on a card) 1. Think about what would happen if a parachute was wrapped around a person as they fell from a high place. This is different from falling with an open parachute. Discuss in your group what would happen, and why.</p> <p>2. Make up a group plan for testing what would happen, using the things on the table. Agree on how you will test them.</p> <p>3. Try out your plan. Make sure everyone is involved.</p> <p>4. Now tell each other what you found out from your test. Try to explain why this happened.</p>		
	<p>Discussion of 2nd activity</p> <p>very good 35 5 moderate 49 43 poor 16 52</p>	
	<p>Commentary</p> <p>Some teams had considerable difficulty with tangled string on the parachutes. This caused frustration and may have reduced the consistency of the trials.</p>	