



SPYTIME MISSION: Parachute Plunge

The only way for Ruff and Chet to get onto Chicken Island (and find the Poodle Diamond) is by parachute.

Your mission is to find the best material for Ruff and Chet to use to make their parachutes. **You have 2 days to report back to Ruff.**

1 Get What You Need

- 10" squares of lightweight plastic (like clear bags from the grocery store)
- heavyweight plastic (like thick trash bag)
- tissue paper
- notebook or computer paper
- 8" pieces of string or thread (4 per parachute)
- scissors
- clear tape
- large paper clips

2 Test your materials

Compare the different types of materials and pick the one you think will make the best parachute. What are some tests you can do to decide which material to use?

3 Make a parachute

Tape string to each corner of the parachute—try to use even lengths of string. Then tape the ends together around a large paper clip. Cut out and tape the paper cut-out of Ruff to the paper clip.

4 Float it

Hold up your parachute and drop it. What happens as it falls to the ground?

5 Design and test another parachute

Select a different material and make another parachute. Compare how it falls with the parachute you made earlier.

6 Make it heavy!

Attach something heavier to the parachute. What changes do you need to make to get the heavier parachute to work?

7 Report back to Ruff

Use the Spy Sketcher to send a photo or a picture of Ruff parachuting in your favorite parachute. To use the Spy Sketcher, go to:
pbskids.org/fetch/spyhounds/poodlediamond/



Chew on This!

When you throw something into the air, it falls because gravity pulls it to the ground. As a parachute falls, the part that fills with air is called the canopy. A parachute works because air gets trapped in the canopy and slows its fall. This is the result of air resistance—the force of the air against the canopy.