



# Kites in the Classroom



## Awesome Autographs

This activity is a fun way for students to remember the special people in their lives, and to practice some simple art techniques. You can choose between using large white poster paper, or ordering our Kite Kits so that every student gets to assemble and fly their very own Kite, which they can keep forever!

- K to 12
- Out of School
- Youth Groups & Camps
- Special Events
- PTA/PTO

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**W**e founded Kites in the Classroom because we wanted to bring the joy of kiting to the world through our easy-to-use Kite Kits, and provide a fun, hands-on activity, accessible to all ages and abilities, wherever you are.

Kites are so much more than a pleasant way to spend a windy afternoon with children. The experience of decorating, building and flying a kite provides so many natural opportunities to for socializing and building memories as a group.

In this **Art Lesson** your group will gather the signatures of the special people in their life on their own one-of-a-kind kite, and then share the experience of seeing all their kites fly high in the sky. Best yet, they can take their kite home to find a prized place in their room, ready to fly again anytime they want to remember those good feelings.

All orders come with a **Kites in the Classroom Guide** book that will walk you through how to organize your Kite Activity or Day. We start with suggestions for preparation and organization and include handouts about Kite Safety; Launching, Flying & Landing; Tips for Successful Flight, and Common Kiting Problems. For those who want more, we also talk about the Parts of a Kite; and provide a brief introduction to the Principles of Flight.

We encourage you to visit our website and subscribe to our mailing list: we will be continuously updating with activities, lesson plans, Guidebooks and more, to support you in the integration of Kites in your Classroom, or wherever you work with young people.

We love to hear stories of adventure and learning through the social media channel of your choice, using the hashtag #kitesintheclassroom or directly on our social media handles below.

We wish you every success with your kites, and welcome you to the rich tradition of kiting.



**Gentle Breezes,**

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**F** more than 29 years we've been bringing the joy of flight to children and adults across North America with our simple, educational Kite Kits. They have been used by 1 million children and adults in 11000 schools and camps, and we know they work!

Our Kite Kits come with everything you need to assemble and fly a kite, are easy to decorate with felt pens/markers and wax crayons, and fly even in low winds.

**Our Kite Kits are:**

- An enjoyable project which educates while it entertains.
- A learning tool to provide access points for guiding inquiry, dialogue and critical thinking across the curriculum.
- A positive group building activity that can be used in a variety of contexts.



K to 12



Out of School



Youth Groups & Camps



Events & Fundraisers

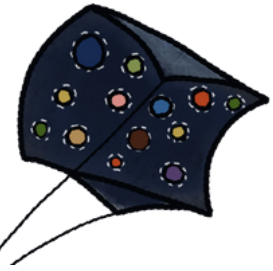


Grade: K to 12

Subject: ART/Other

Awesome Autographs

Time: 1 hour for Art and up to 3 hours for Kite Assembly and Flight.



# AWESOME AUTOGRAPHS



## LESSON FOCUS AND GOALS

Students will plan and design a Kite (or poster) to collect autographs from all their classmates.

## MATERIALS NEEDED

- 1 Kite Kit per student (extra for models).
- Templates provided.
- Kites in the Classroom Guidebook.
- List of first names.
- Scratch paper for planning.
- Large workspace.
- Thick & dark felt pens (non-washable).
- 3' X 2' poster paper (optional)

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Explore relationships between identity, place and belonging.
- Take creative risks to express feelings, ideas, and experiences.
- Practice elements of design: line, shape, texture, colour, pattern, repetition, and contrast.
- Review types of line, including vertical, horizontal, curved, spiral, zigzag and broken.

## STRUCTURE / ACTIVITY

**Step 1:** Review elements of design and types of line studied during the year.

**Step 2:** Have students plan their Kite or Poster using scratch paper before starting on their Kite.

**Step 3:** Fold the Kite or paper into quarters to find the center point.

**Step 4:** Use the *circle template* and trace a circle over the center point.

# AWESOME AUTOGRAPHS

*Practice the next steps on scratch paper, and then use light pencil on the Kite.*

**Step 5:** Write the year over the top of the circle in large dark numbers.

**Step 6:** Write the student name under the bottom of the circle in large dark letters.

**Step 7:** Write the name of the school, or organization across the top of the Kite.

**Step 8:** Students can use the circle for a self-portrait, or symbols of special events.

*To help students plan spacing for the autographs, count the total number of names they will need and divide by 4 sections (so for a class of 32 students they will need place for at least 8 names per quarter section on the Kite or Poster).*

*Remember they may want to leave place for autographs of teachers, and friends from other classes. The template included is 3cm/1.5" high, which makes room for about 34 names on the Kite Sail. Adjust your template if you need.*

**Step 9:** Use *the template* and lightly draw the top and bottom lines in pencil for the autographs. Remember to space the names evenly between the four quadrants of the kite.

**Step 10:** Go around the class to collect autographs using felts or markers.

*Signatures should fill up all the space between the top and bottom lines, and should all face the same way. Make sure the ink is dry so it doesn't smudge.*

**Step 11:** Use lines, circles, spiral, zigzags, dots and small shapes to decorate the top and bottom lines of the names.

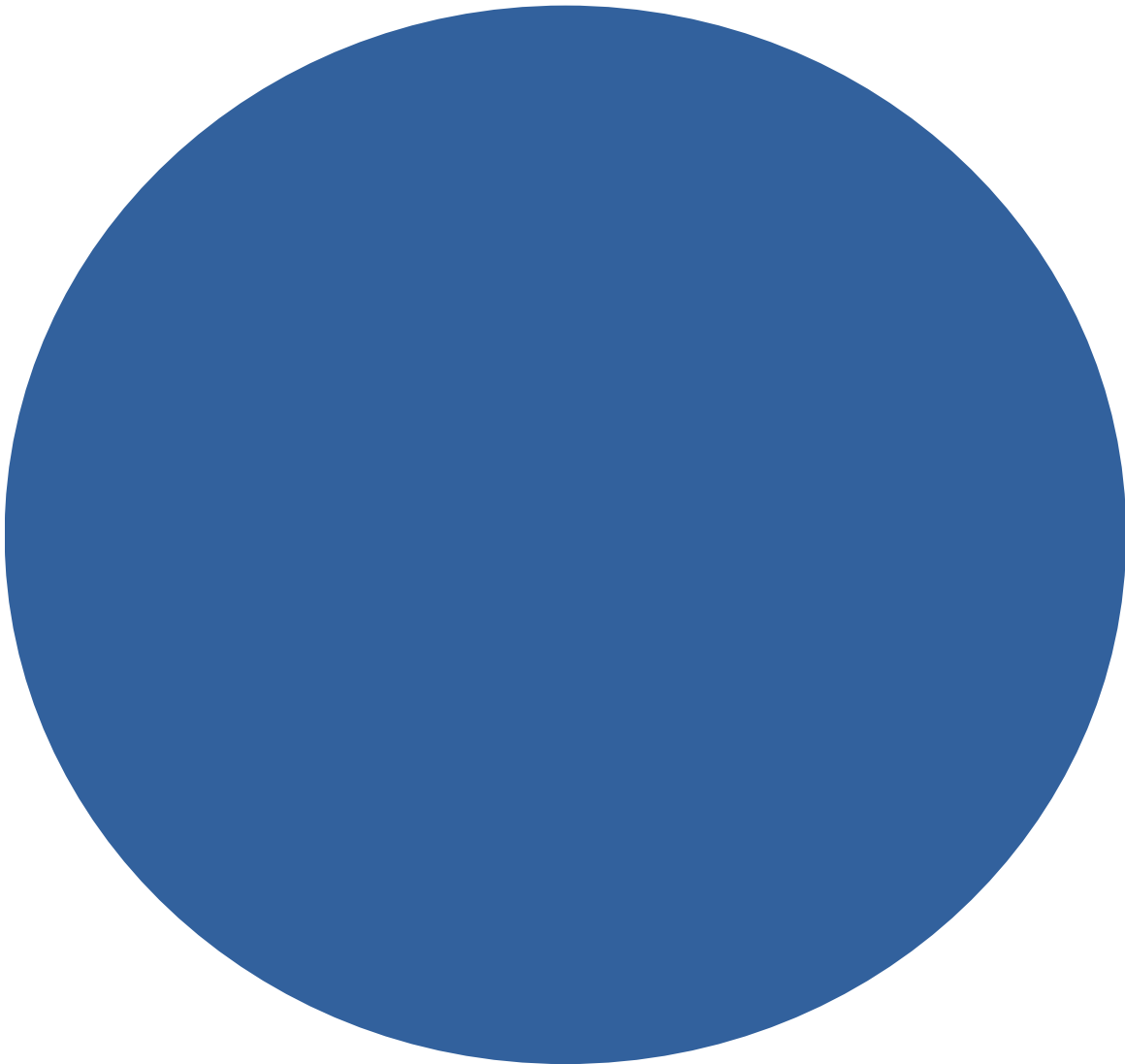
**Step 12:** Use brightly colored felts or markers to decorate the edges of the kite sail (no more than 1 cm/0.5" if you have a lot of names, and make sure to use paper under so you don't stain your work space!)

**Step 13:** Fill in large empty spaces with patterns and shapes. Leave enough white so there is good contrast OR use wax crayons to fill in the background.

Now you are ready to assemble and fly your Kite! See the instruction in the Kites in the Classroom Guidebook that comes with each order to help plan this part of the lesson.

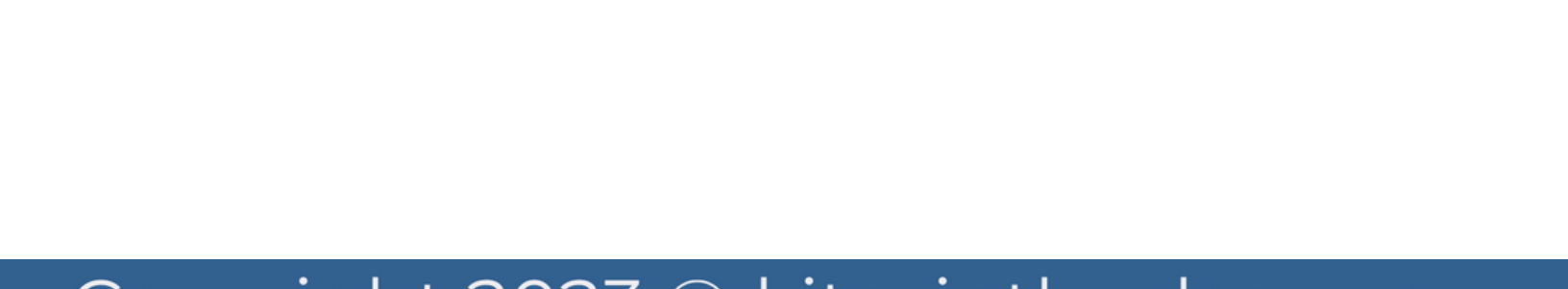
# Circle Template

Photocopy onto cardstock - one circle per group of 5 or 6 students to share.



# Autograph Template

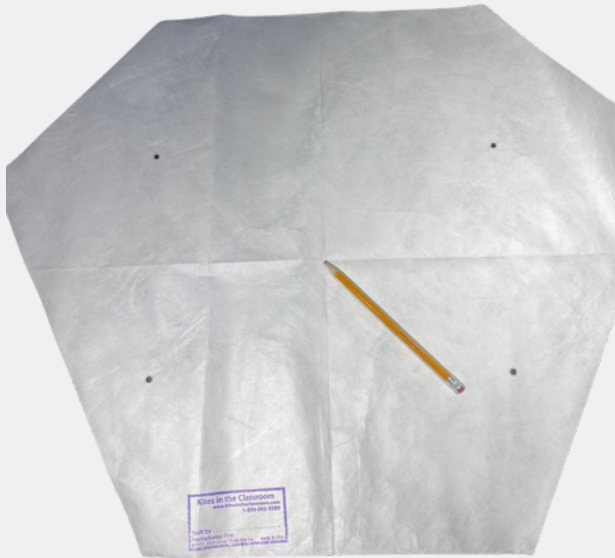
(photocopy onto cardstock enough for one strip per student)





# Example

## Step 1 - 3



## Step 4 - 8



## Step 9 - 11

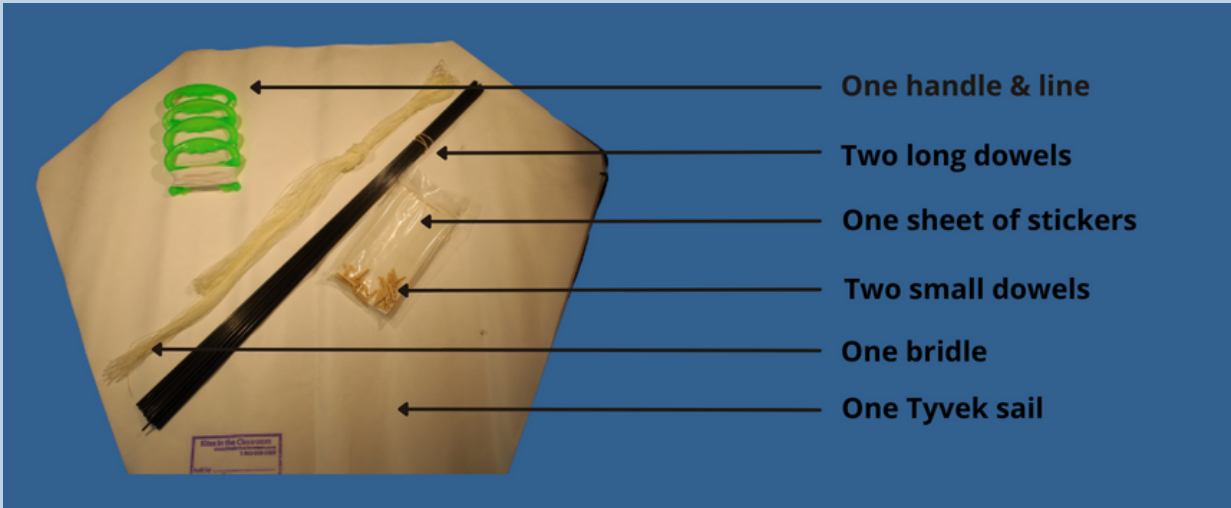


## Step 12 - 13



# ASSEMBLY

Visit [kitesintheclassroom.com](http://kitesintheclassroom.com) for assembly instructions.



## PREPARING FOR ASSEMBLY

- Your order will not arrive sorted into individual Kite Kits.
- We suggest laying the materials out on a table for easy collection.
- Don't pass out the small dowels until you are ready to use them.
- The bridles get easily tangled. Have a few people hand them out individually.

## DECORATION

- Dark felt pens or markers with thick tips work best.
- Wax crayons, paint, and pastels can also be used after you have assembled the kite.
- Cover your worksurface.
- The designs must be large and dark enough to be seen when flying in the sky.

## OTHER MATERIALS

- A sample kite, already assembled.
- Copies of instructions & handouts.
- Single hole punch (1/15 people).
- Scissors.
- A roll of hockey tape to replace stickers (optional).

## ASSEMBLY

(SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS)

- STEP 1: Decorate the sail.
- STEP 2: Insert & secure the long dowels.
- STEP 3: Reinforce bridle w small dowel.
- STEP 4: Add the bridle string.
- STEP 5: Connect kite line to bridle string.
- STEP 6: Review Safety; Launch, Fly & Land and Tips for Successful Flight.





# Kites in the Classroom: Learning in Full Flight

At the simplest level Kiting provides a fun, hands-on activity accessible to people of all ages and abilities. We have seen how the sky is the limit for integrating Kites into any group activity from K to 12, Out of School Care, to Camps & Youth Organizations.

This list is only the the beginning of what you will learn using our Kite Kits!

## 1. Group Building

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Participants in Kiting activities develop a group identity through shared experience and achievement; learn how to work together to solve problems; pool knowledge and skills; share responsibilities and roles; practice consideration towards others; and have fun together as they create memories that last a lifetime.

## 2. Hands-On Learning

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Assembling and flying Kites provides opportunities to break complex tasks into steps; plan and manage time; follow directions while being creative; take risks; refine understanding through discussion and explanation; give and receive feedback on performance; challenge assumptions; and develop communication skills.

## 3. Problem-Based Learning

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As anyone who has ever flown a kite knows, Kites provide a powerful opportunity to learn by actively engaging in real-world and immediately relevant problems, through exploration, risk-taking and problem-solving. These experiences develop skills that are transferable to all learning and the world of work, and promotes learning that is profound and durable.

## 4. STEAM Learning

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A Kiting Activity or Unit of Inquiry is a fun and powerful opportunity to actively engage with the concepts and processes of Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics and promotes student inquiry, dialogue and critical thinking.

## 5. Engineering Design Process

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Kites provide an powerful way to introduce and extend the principles of the Engineering Design Process: creativity, collaboration & problem-solving, asking questions, making observations, analyzing data and communicating findings.

## 6. Connection with Nature

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Kiting is an easy and fun activity for people of all ages to do outside. The feeling of flying a kite high in the air is both exhilarating and humbling. Kilters need to develop careful observation skills to notice things like changes in wind speed and direction, and adapt to keep their kite in the air. The feeling of being one with nature can't be beat.



# Kites in the Classroom

If you want to inject some friendly competitiveness into your Kite Day, hold a kite contest. Done with humour and inclusion, a kite contest can be both fun and motivating. It works better if you have a category for every student, or bronze, silver and gold awards in each category so everyone is noted for something. Here are some pointers and a few rule ideas to make your contest go smoothly:

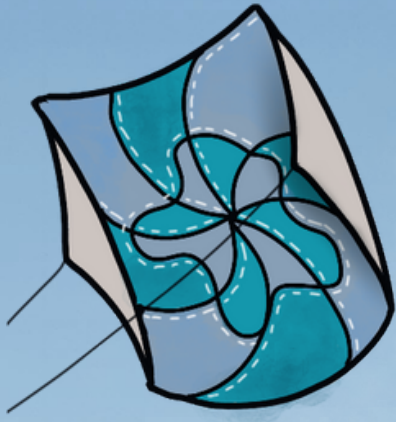
Every kite contest requires judges. Use two or three judges. Ask another teacher, a principal, or a parent. Arrange for prizes or ribbons and organize a display the winning kites in the class or in the school. Have the in-house newspaper interview fliers. Ask the media to your kite day. Everybody likes taking pictures of kites in flight!

<b>The Neatest</b>	Judge for clean surfaces, symmetry, neat knots, accurate bridle holes, a neatly wound kite line, and a neatly rolled up kite at the end of the event.
<b>The Most Beautiful</b>	Judge while holding the kite and while in flight. What is beautiful is very subjective, but we have found that there is often a single kite that really stands out to the whole group.
<b>The Most Unique</b>	Now and then we see kite designs and drawings that show out-of-the-box thinking. It's always good to note unconventional creativity.
<b>The Most Efficient Flier</b>	Efficiency in flight is directly related to how well the kite is assembled and how carefully the student raises the kite in the field. A carefully launched kite in a normal wind will rise almost straight above the kiter. Some side-by-side lift off contests will be a challenge for some.



# Kites in the Classroom

<b>Charlie Brown Award</b>	Charlie Brown Award Kites love to rest in trees. No, trees love kites, especially in the spring. Feeding trees is a noble endeavour!
<b>The Steadiest Flier</b>	Which kite seems to be anchored to the rock of Gibraltar up there? A kite that won't stay up unless the kiter is running is not a kite because it is not powered by the wind.
<b>Altitude Sprint</b>	Give flyers a set amount of time (say 30s to 2 min) to launch their kite and let out line. When the time is up judges decide which kite is flying the highest.
<b>Bird Nest Award</b>	No kite fest is possible without someone tangling the kite line into a knot. Most knots can be removed, but there are some real experts in producing unwanted knots.
<b>Best New Rules Award</b>	How do your students want to be judged? Reach agreement on the rules and implement their wishes. Honor the student who formulated the most fair rules.
<b>Total Kiting Award</b>	Initiate a contest that judges the whole process of kiting: (1) Proper choice on the field, (2) time required to fully launch the kite, (3) the kite must stay up and remain steady for at least five minutes, perhaps three (4) order the retrieval of the kite and measure the time taken to wind up the line (5) judge how well the line is wound up again - no loose ends, no knots in the line (6) contestants gather at a given place with their kites wound up neatly.



  
**Kites**  
in the classroom



Learning in Full Flight

**Order Now!**

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