

Lesson Plan 3:

Art/DT - How to make a plastic bag kite

(Slide 19 accompanies this lesson)

Background

Kite making and kite flying are part of Filipino culture and tradition. Traditionally, kites are used for a game called 'kite fighting'. The Filipino for 'kite' or 'kite fighting' is 'bolador'. Opponents try to bring down their rivals' kites by cutting the strings with their own kite string. The string of the kite is coated with glass powder to provide the cutting edge. The game is very skilful and is played by girls and boys aged 7 and over during the spring months (January-March). The children play in teams and try to destroy their opponents kite whilst minimising the damage to their own kite. Kites are flown in different colours, shapes and sizes. Boca-boca are small kites made from square paper ties to a short string. Chopi-chopi are pointed competitive kites.

Many families in the Philippines are not able to afford toys for their children so the children make their own toys, often from materials they have found. One of the most common materials to be found is plastic bags. Children love making and flying plastic bag kites.

There are lots of different ways to make plastic bag kites. The following pages show you how to make a simple version but feel free to design your own. You can use this lesson idea to talk about recycling and how for many poor children recycling is a necessity whereas for children in the UK it is a choice.

Resources you will need

- A plastic bag
- Some sticks
- String

➤ The instructions for making the kite are on the following pages. You can print these instructions out for students to follow in class

Instructions for making a plastic bag kite

1. Take two sticks, one longer than the other and tie together with string to form a cross. The cross should be tied about one third of the way along the main stick.



2. Cut a diamond shape from a plastic bag to fit the sticks – this is the sail



3. Tie the ends of the sail to the wooden frame. Keep the knots tight

4. Make a bridle by tying a piece of string from one end of the cross-stick to the other, leaving slack to form a triangle as shown in the photo.



5. Tie a big ball of string to the bottom of the main stick, loop under the slack cross string and tie a simple knot at the intersection of the two strings (so it forms a triangular pyramid shape)



6. Cut the rest of the bag into strips and tie together to make a tail – tape the tail to the bottom of the kite. You could use other colours to make your kite even more exciting

Your kite is now ready to fly!

