



THE SCIENCE OF  
**Global  
Atmospheric  
Change**

# HOW TO MAKE A PAPER PINWHEEL

By Barbara Tharp, Judith Dresden and Nancy Moreno  
*Illustrated by Martha S. Young*

*from Mr. Slaptail's Curious Contraption and for  
The Science of Global Atmospheric Change*

## BioEd<sup>SM</sup>

Teacher Resources from the  
Center for Educational Outreach at  
Baylor College of Medicine

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Third edition. First edition published 1997.  
Printed in the United States of America.

ISBN: 978-1-888997-72-9

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The activities described in this book are intended for school-age children under direct supervision of adults. The authors and Baylor College of Medicine cannot be responsible for any accidents or injuries that may result from conduct of the activities, from not specifically following directions, or from ignoring cautions contained in the text.

Development of this book was supported by grant numbers R25 ES06932 and R25ES010698 from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), National Institutes of Health (NIH). The opinions, findings and conclusions expressed in this publication are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official views of Baylor College of Medicine, NIEHS or NIH.

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Science of Global Atmospheric Change educational materials, first developed as part of the My Health My World® project at Baylor College of Medicine, have benefited from the vision and expertise of scientists and educators representing a wide range of specialties. Our heartfelt appreciation goes to Michael Lieberman, M.D., Ph.D., William A. Thomson, Ph.D., and Carlos Vallbona, M.D., who have lent their support and expertise to the project.

Special acknowledgment is due to our original partners in this project, the American Physiological Society and the Texas Medical Association. We especially thank Marsha Lakes Matyas, Ph.D., American Physiological Society, and Allison Schmidt, M.P.H. and Kristine Niemeyer, Texas Medical Association, for their active support and direction of field test activities. We also thank the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, National Institutes of Health, Allen Dearry, Ph.D., Frederick Tyson, Ph.D., and Liam O’Fallon for their support of the My Health My World® project.

Many dedicated professionals helped assure the educational and scientific integrity of this publication. In particular, we are grateful to the following individuals who provided guidance: Cassius Bordelon, Ph.D., Amanda Santana, B.S.E.E., Ronald Sass, Ph.D., Sandra Saunders, M.A., Lief Sigren, Ph.D., Linda Thomson, M.A., Cathey Whitener, M.S., and Ellison Wittels, M.D.

We also wish to express our gratitude for the invaluable feedback provided by the many teachers and students in and around Austin and Houston, Texas, and Washington, D.C., who participated in field trials of these materials.



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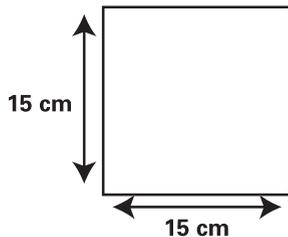


# How to Make a Paper Pinwheel

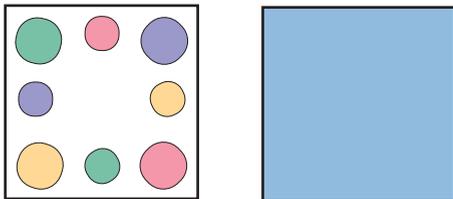
**Materials:** Square of paper (about 10 to 15 cm), colored markers, crayons or decorative stickers, pencil with full eraser, ruler, scissors, straight pin.

## Procedure

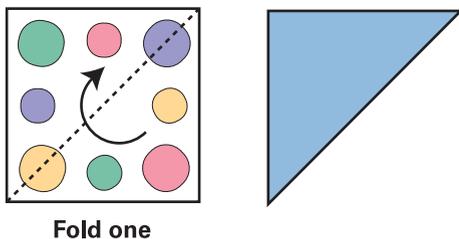
1. Start with a square piece of paper.



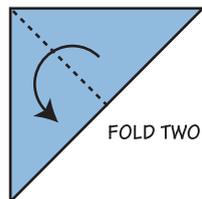
2. Decorate both sides of the sheet of paper.



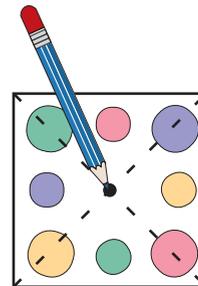
3. Fold the square in half to make a triangle.



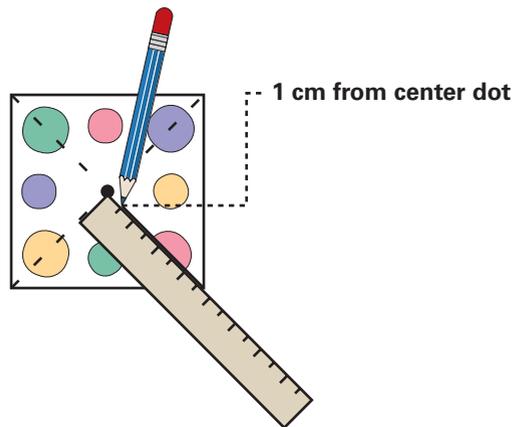
4. Fold the triangle in half, making a smaller triangle.



5. Now, unfold the paper. With your pencil, put a dot in the center of the square, where the four fold lines meet.



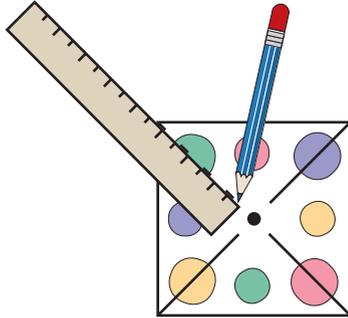
6. Lay your ruler on the paper, from the dot along one of the folds to the corner.



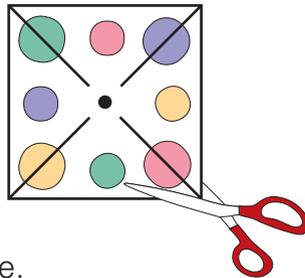
Starting 1 cm away from the dot, draw a line from there to the end of the point at the corner.



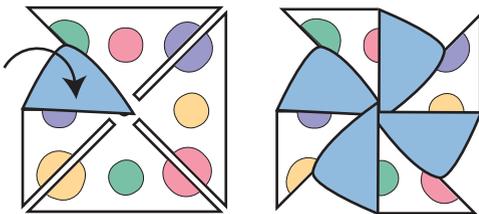
- Draw a line to each of the other three corners, starting 1 cm from the center.



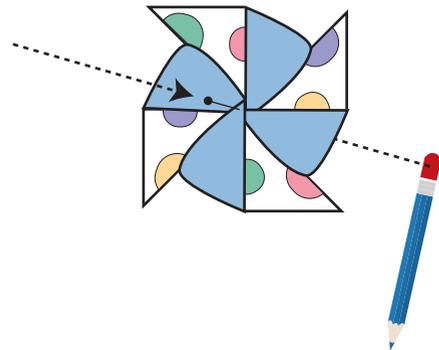
- Cut on the lines you have drawn. Be sure to stop cutting before you reach the end of each line.



- Fold every other point in toward the center, over the center dot. The points should reach a little beyond the dot.

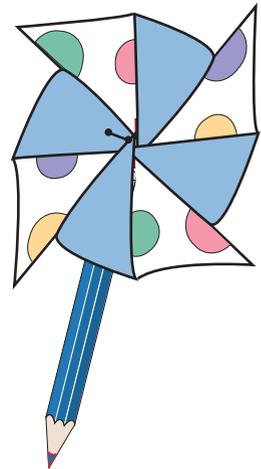


- With four points folded down over the center, push a straight pin through the center of the paper and all four points. Once the straight pin is all the way through the paper, push the pin into the eraser on your pencil. Do not push the straight pin all the way through the eraser.



- Smooth out the creased edges a little, to open and puff out your wheel.

You have made a pinwheel!  
Wave it in the air or blow on it to make it go around.



I wonder? What kind of power makes this wheel go around? What real-life machines work the same way?