BACKGROUND
Kites are thought to have originated in Asia, and first appeared in China over 3,000 years ago. Malaysian fishermen have used leaf kites for thousands of years as a means to catch fish.

WHAT TO DO
I. Introductory Activity
Have a short discussion with youth about the basic parts of a kite and kite safety.

Basic Parts of a Kite:
- Sail – the material that forms the kite face.
- Keel – the chief structural element that runs lengthwise and stabilizes the kite in flight.
- Spar – a structural element that runs crosswise and gives the kite strength.
- Tail – helps keep the kite face at an angle to the wind and stabilizes the kite in flight.

Kite Safety:
- Only fly your kite in open areas.
- Never fly your kite near trees, houses, buildings, streets, highways, overhead electric power lines, or near crowds of people.

II. Build a kite with the template:
- Give each youth a kite template, one 8” bamboo skewer, one 10’ piece of flagging tape, and clear tape.
- Fold the kite template in half along line A.
- Fold top piece of template back along line B.
- Turn template over and fold top piece of template back along line C.
- Lift the template and swing left side of template up and tape seam firmly along lines B & C.
- Tape a bamboo skewer between E and D.
- Tape the end of flagging tape firmly at F to form a tail.
- Turn the kite over and fold the keel back and forth until it stands up straight (otherwise the kite may spin in circles).
III. Build a kite with colored paper:

- Give each youth one piece of 8½” x 11” colored paper, one 8” bamboo skewer, one 10’ piece of flagging tape, and clear tape.
- Fold the paper in half to 8½” x 5½” (crease should be on the left).
- From the upper left corner measure in ½” and make a mark. From the bottom left corner measure in 2½” and make a mark. Draw a line between these two marks. Fold top piece back along the line.
- Turn paper over (crease should be on the right) and from the upper right corner measure in ½” and make a mark. From the bottom right corner measure in 2½” and make a mark. Draw a line between these two marks. Fold top piece back along the line.
- Lift the template and swing left side of template up and tape seam firmly together.
- Center a bamboo skewer across the kite and about two inches down from the top of the kite and tape it down firmly.
- Tape the end of flagging tape firmly at the bottom of the kite to form the tail.
- Turn the kite over and fold the keel back and forth until it stands up straight (otherwise the kite may spin in circles).
- Punch a hole in the keel about 2½” down from the top of the kite and about ½” in from the crease in the keel. Attach a reinforcement label over the hole.
- Tie the string around the cardboard string winder and wind 10 feet of string (about 60 turns).
- Attach the other end of the string to the hole in the kite.

IV. Go Fly a Kite!

Find an open area to fly the kites. Review kite safety and let youth fly their kites!

TALK IT OVER

Reflect

- What happened when you made your kite?
- What worked well for you? What was hard?
- How did your kite fly?
- What adjustments did you make to your kite?
- How did you decide what adjustments needed to be made?

Apply

- Do we ever have to make adjustments in other areas of our lives?
- How can making adjustments be a good thing?