One Paper, Two Shapes: Falling Test

Answers, practical support and discussion.

Low, safe release

An adult marks one low release height above a clear table or floor. Do not climb or stand on furniture. The child watches from the side and keeps away from the drop area. No fans or deliberate gusts.

Control the comparison

Use the same small paper square throughout. Release without pushing. Complete three flat trials, then three loosely crumpled trials from the same mark. Keep the landing surface unchanged.

Observe rather than promise

No particular outcome is guaranteed. Describe falling, drifting, turning and landing. Without a timer or simultaneous release, do not claim an exact duration or a measured speed difference.

Discuss the evidence

Ask whether the trials looked similar and which other conditions might have changed. Shape can affect how air interacts with falling paper. A single paper model does not show that heavier objects always fall faster.