Air Column Flyers

Shared by: K-12 Maker Lab Team

Specialized tools and materials used:	**Experience level required:**
Craft materials	Beginner

Grade Level and Subject (of this example): 8th Grade Life Sciences

Topic/Content Standards (for this example): 8.MS-LS4-5 Synthesize and communicate information about artificial selection, or the ways in which humans have changed the inheritance of desired traits in organisms.



Summary of Project:

Students construct a contraption with plastic cups & lids, ping pong balls, feathers, paper, pipe cleaners, and more, and observe if and how it flies in the air column. Students should be encouraged to make several iterations on their designs based on their observations. This project can be completed individually or collaboratively. Create a simple air column by facing a fan upwards and affixing a clear plastic tube. Use cardboard to create a base for the plastic tube that allows for insertion of the flying contraptions.

Possible Content explorations:

- **HS Technology & Engineering:** HS-ETS3-6(MA) Use informational text to illustrate how a vehicle or device can be modified to produce a change in lift, drag, friction, thrust, and weight.