

Make a kite!



*See ideas on how to
create a kite!*



Month of the Military Child



What you'll need to make your kite!

1. A strong plastic bag or paper, decorated with your own unique design
2. A roll of electrical tape
3. Two lengths of hardwood dowel (about 5 mm diameter),
at least as long as your paper/bag
4. A line (a strong and light synthetic thread)
5. A piece of wood or cardboard
6. A ruler
7. Scissors
8. A black marker pen

STEP 1



DRAW YOUR KITE SAIL

- Lay your paper or bag smoothly on a flat surface (if it is a piece of paper make sure it is folded in half), and mark three dots to form an isosceles triangle.
- With the ruler, draw a straight line between them.
- Flip over paper/bag and trace over the original pen line to make a matching triangle shape.

STEP 2

CUT OUT THE KITE SAIL

- Cut along the two edges with a pair of scissors, and open it up to reveal a diamond kite shape! *Remember to keep the scrap paper*



STEP 3

BUILD KITE STRUCTURE

- Lay the dowel in the center of the kite vertically, trim it so that it is the exact length of the kite, and affix with tape.
- Take a second length of dowel and lay it from the left to right corners so it forms a T, and tape as before.

STEP 4

ATTACH YOUR LINE

- Turn the kite over and, with scissors, poke a small hole in the plastic where the two dowels cross.
- Thread one end of line through the hold and tie it tautly to both pieces of wood, add some tape to the middle over the knot to make sure it won't move.
- Tie the other end of the line to a small wooden block or piece of board that you can hold with both hands.
- Stick the end of the thread in the handle so that it doesn't move.

STEP 5

MAKE A TAIL

- Use the remaining paper or bag to make a tail that's about as twice as long as your kite. Tie to bottom of the (vertical) dowel in your own unique way and voilà!
- Now it's time to find some wind and fly your unique kite!

How to make Kite!



8.5"x11" piece of paper.

This is your standard copy paper size. Regular paper works fine, but I like card stock because it's a little sturdier. Use whatever you have. If you use plain white paper, let your kid color bright designs all over it before beginning the project.

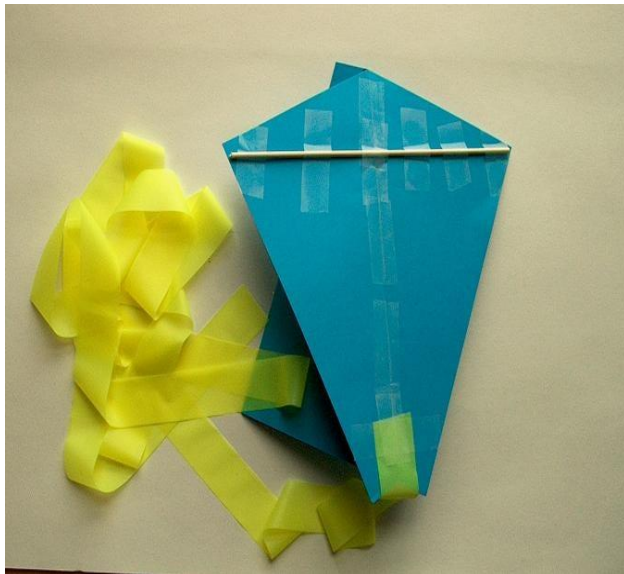
2. A wooden skewer. A straight drinking straw works too.

3. Kite string. You can find this at a lot of department stores. If not, almost any strong but light string would work. Quilters' string is about the right thickness. Yarn may be too heavy, sewing thread too light. Fishing line is light but strong.

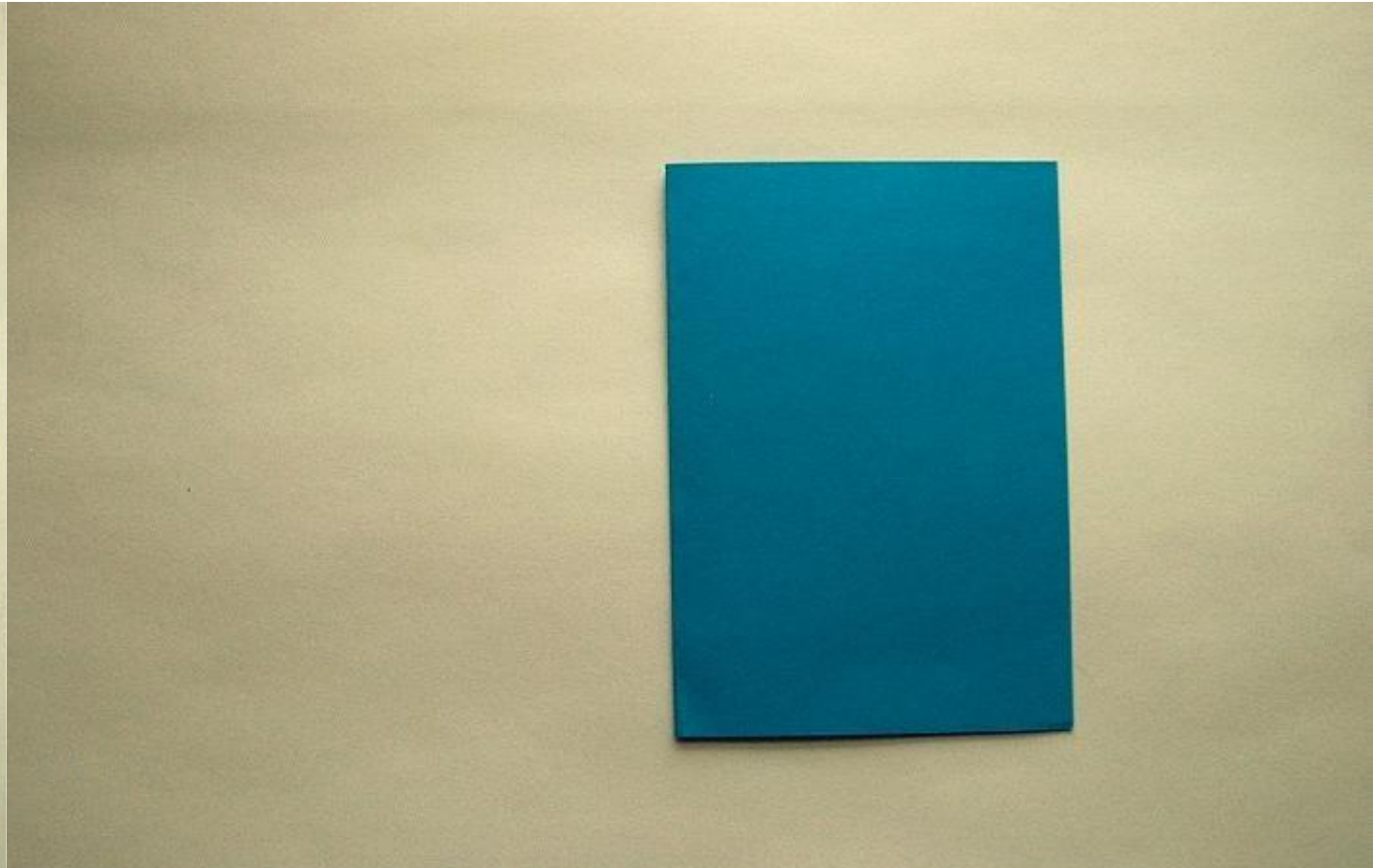
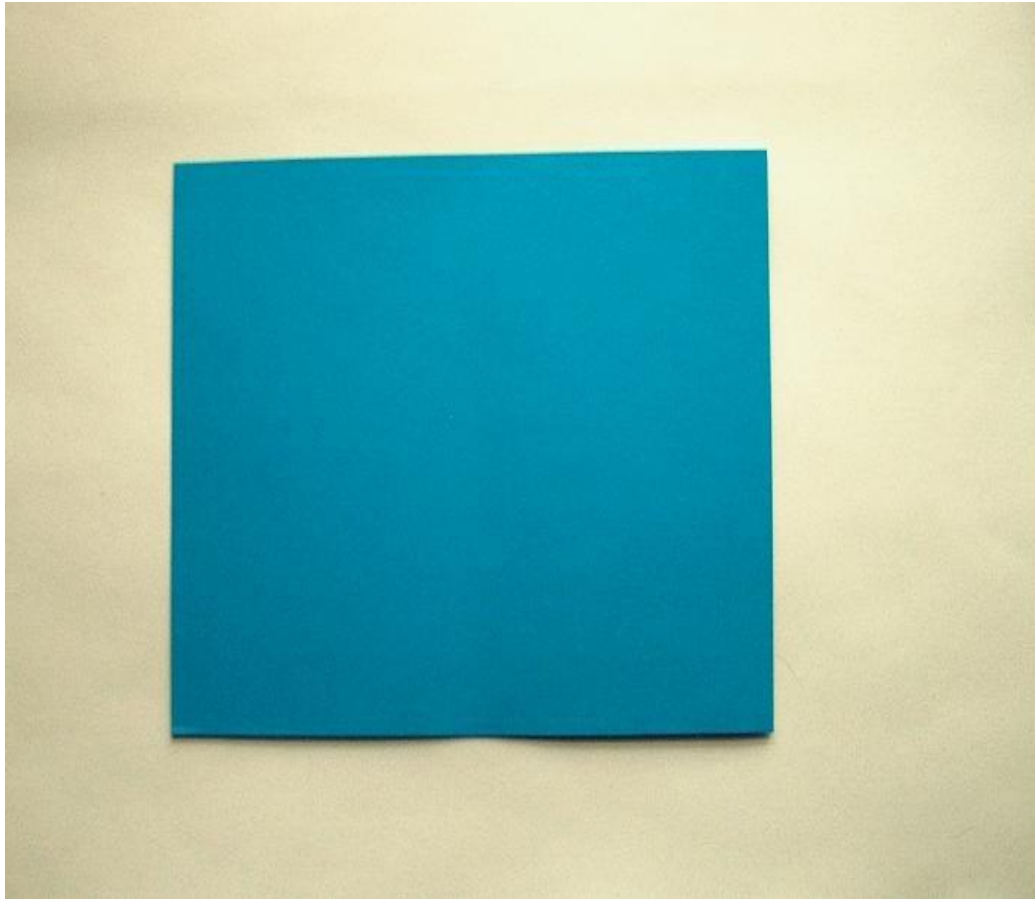
4. Ribbon. Most wide ribbon would work fine. I like using surveyors tape (available at hardware stores) because it's made of plastic, which is lighter (for a longer tail!) and durable. Surveyors tape comes in bright fluorescent colors that kids like.

5. Scissors or hole punch.

6. Tape.



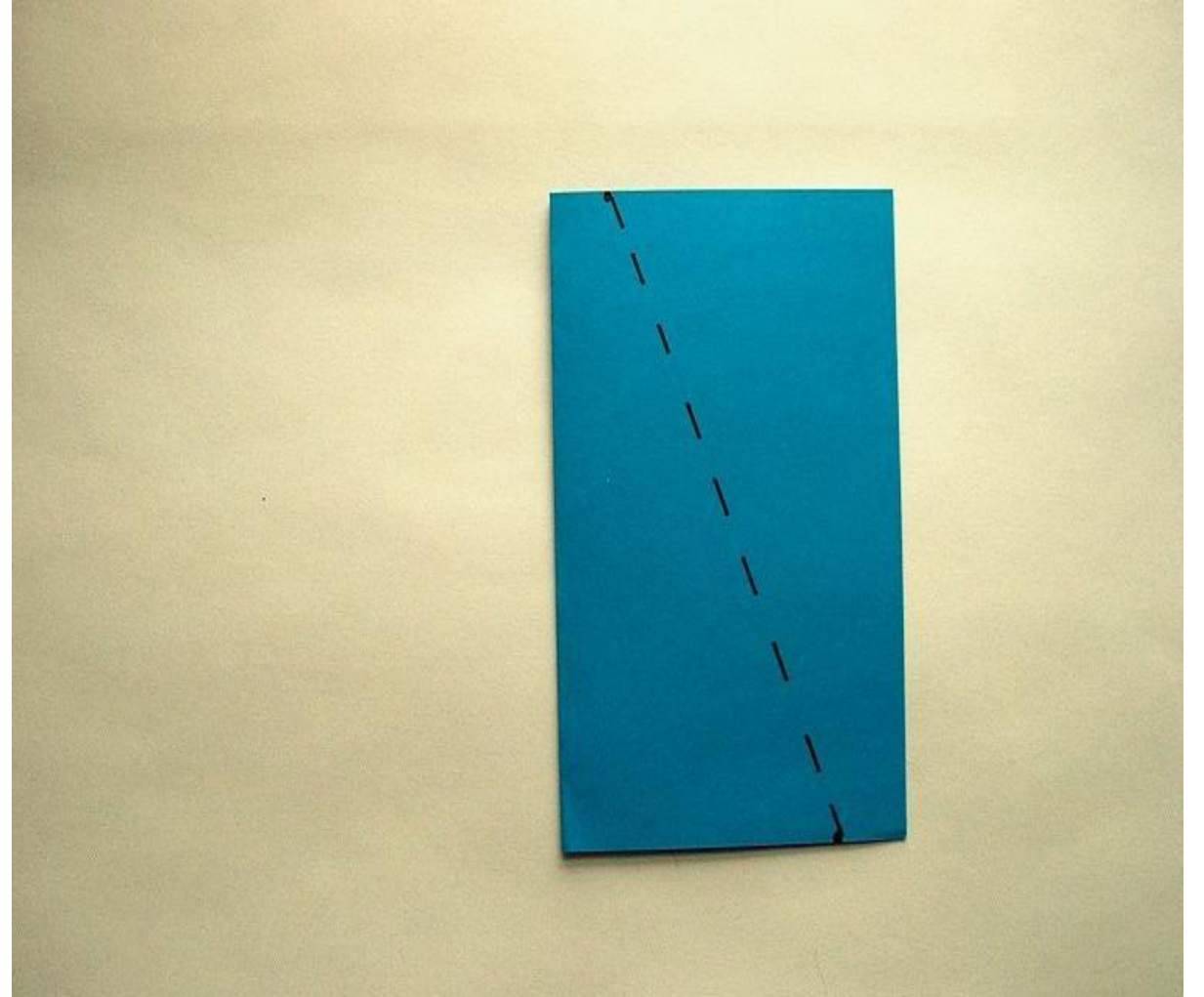
Start with your piece of paper.
Fold it in half.

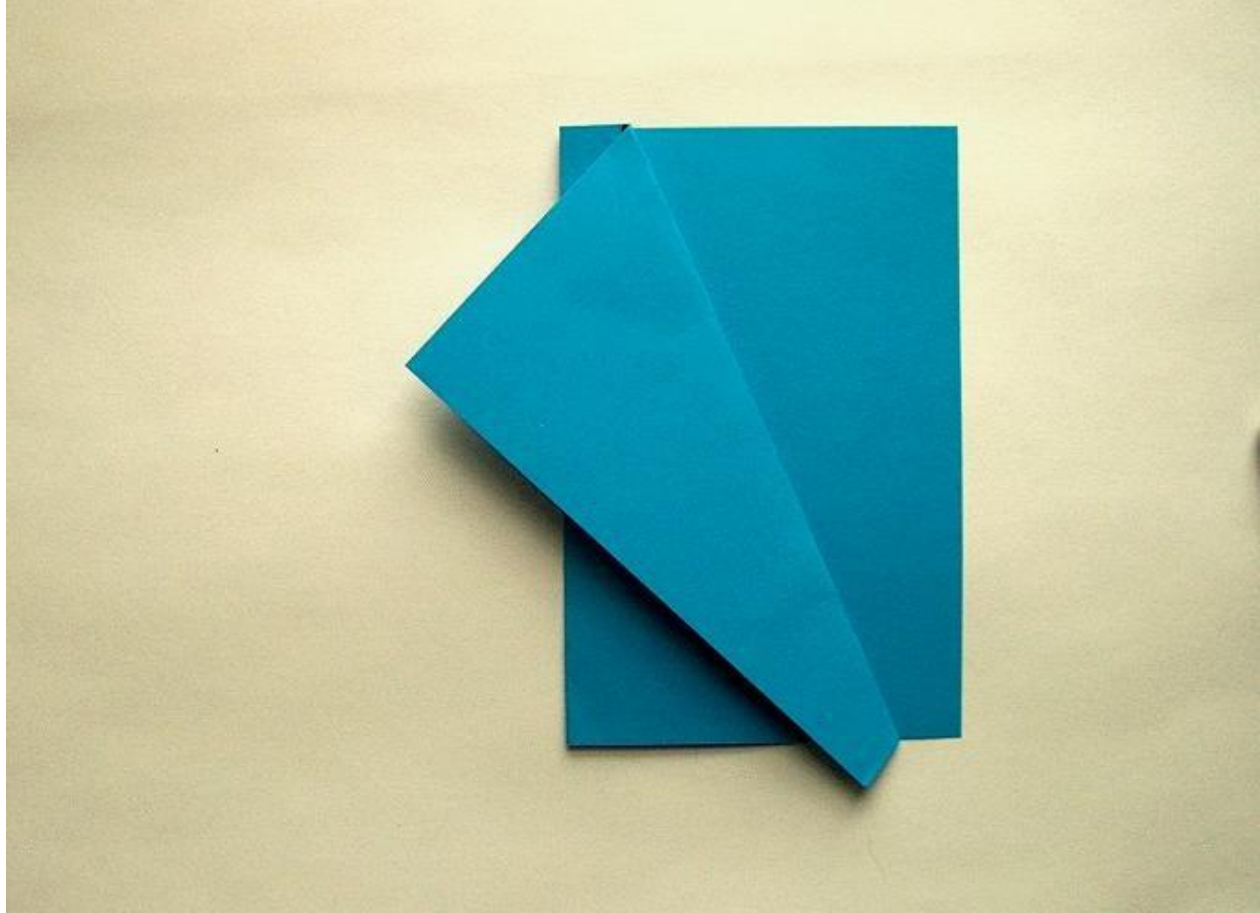


Mark a point on the top of the paper about one inch from the fold.

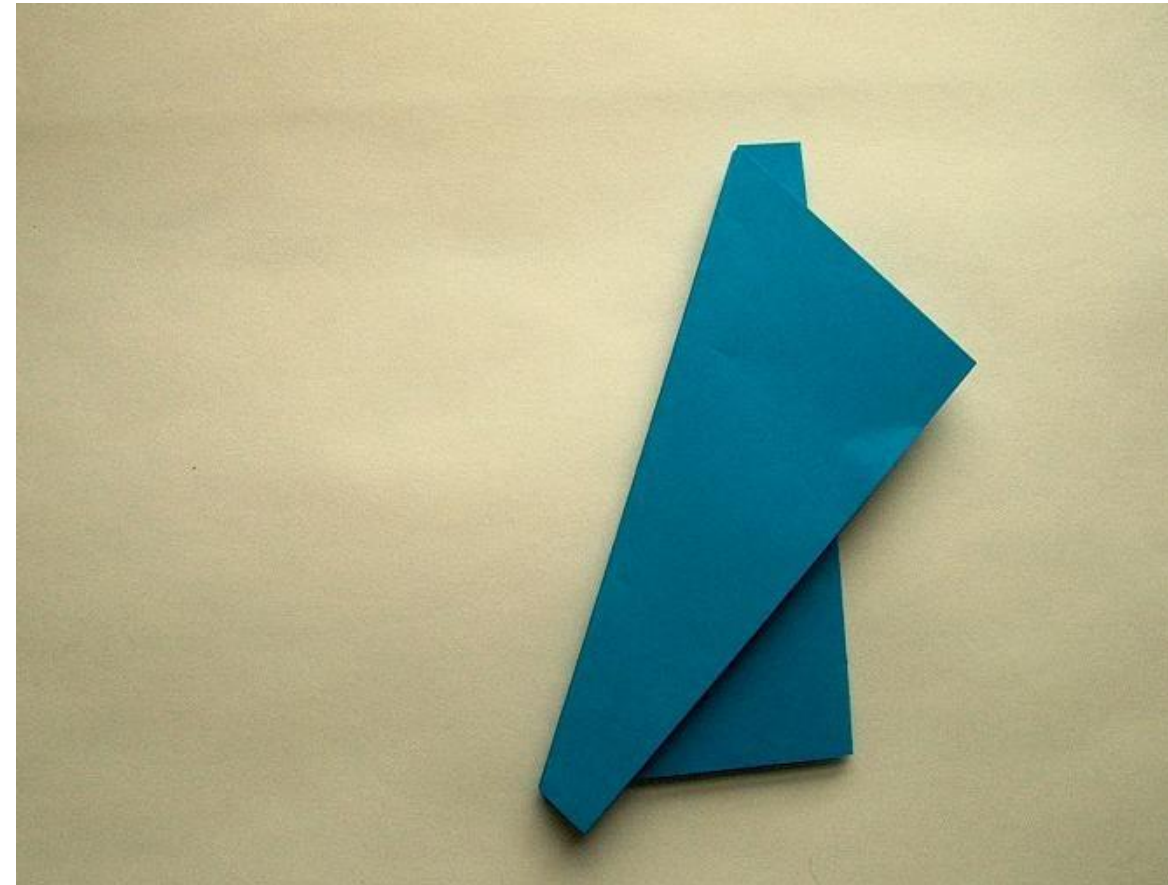
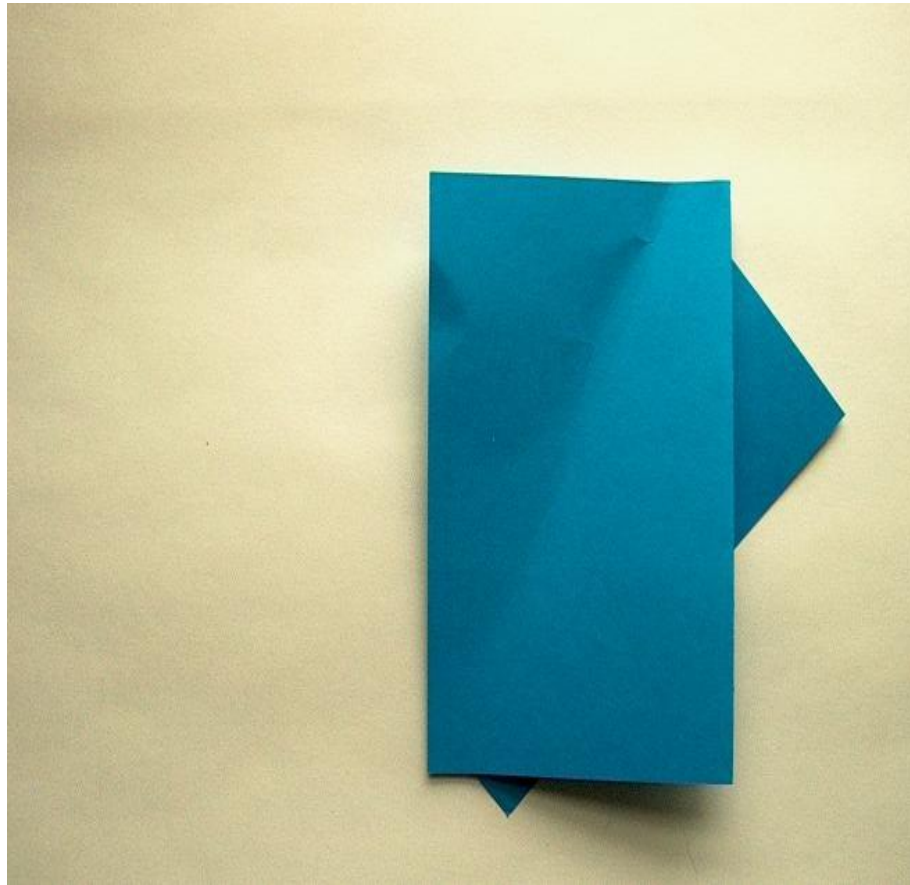
Mark a point on the bottom of the paper about one inch from the open side.

Imagine, or draw, a line connecting these two dots.

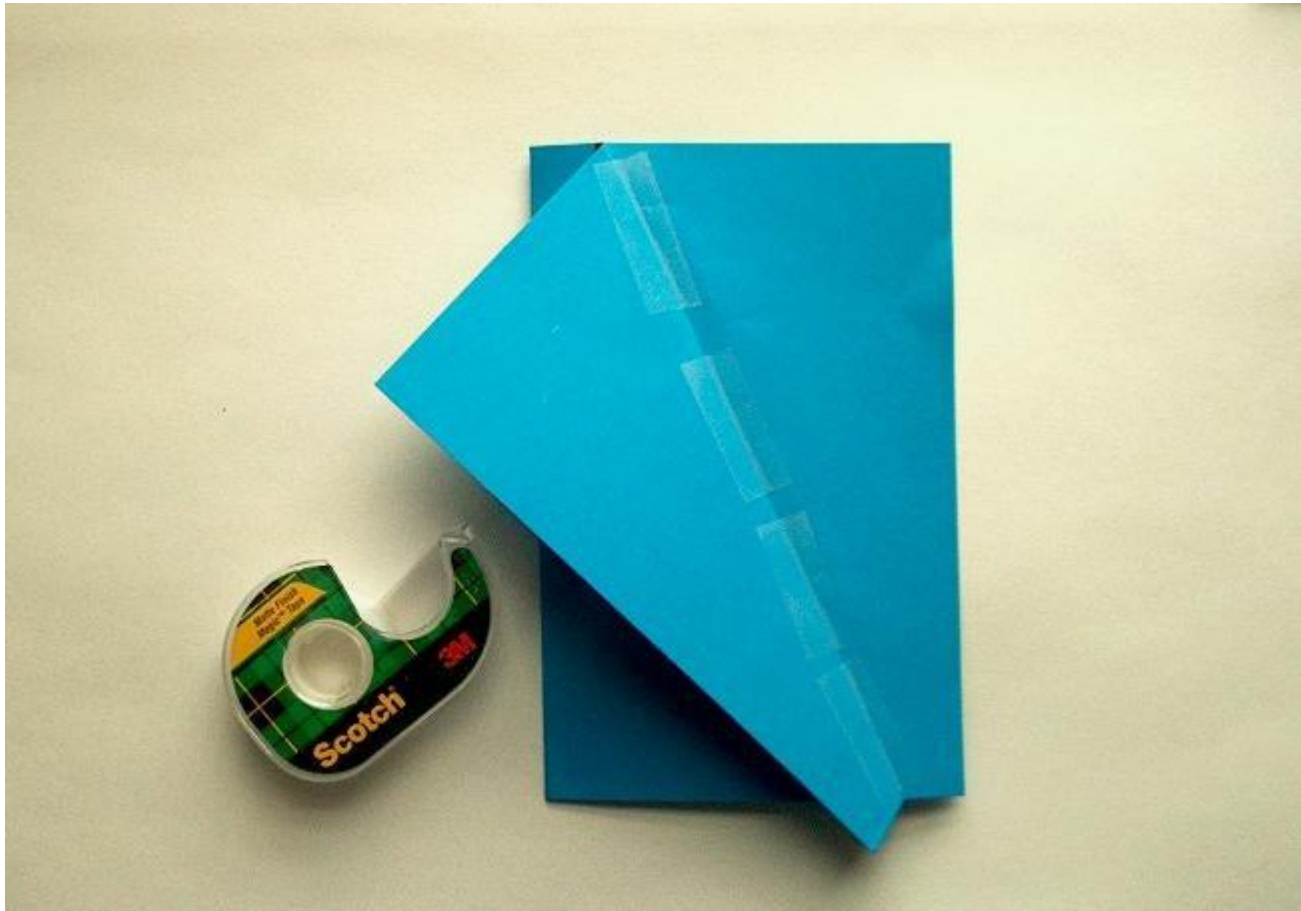




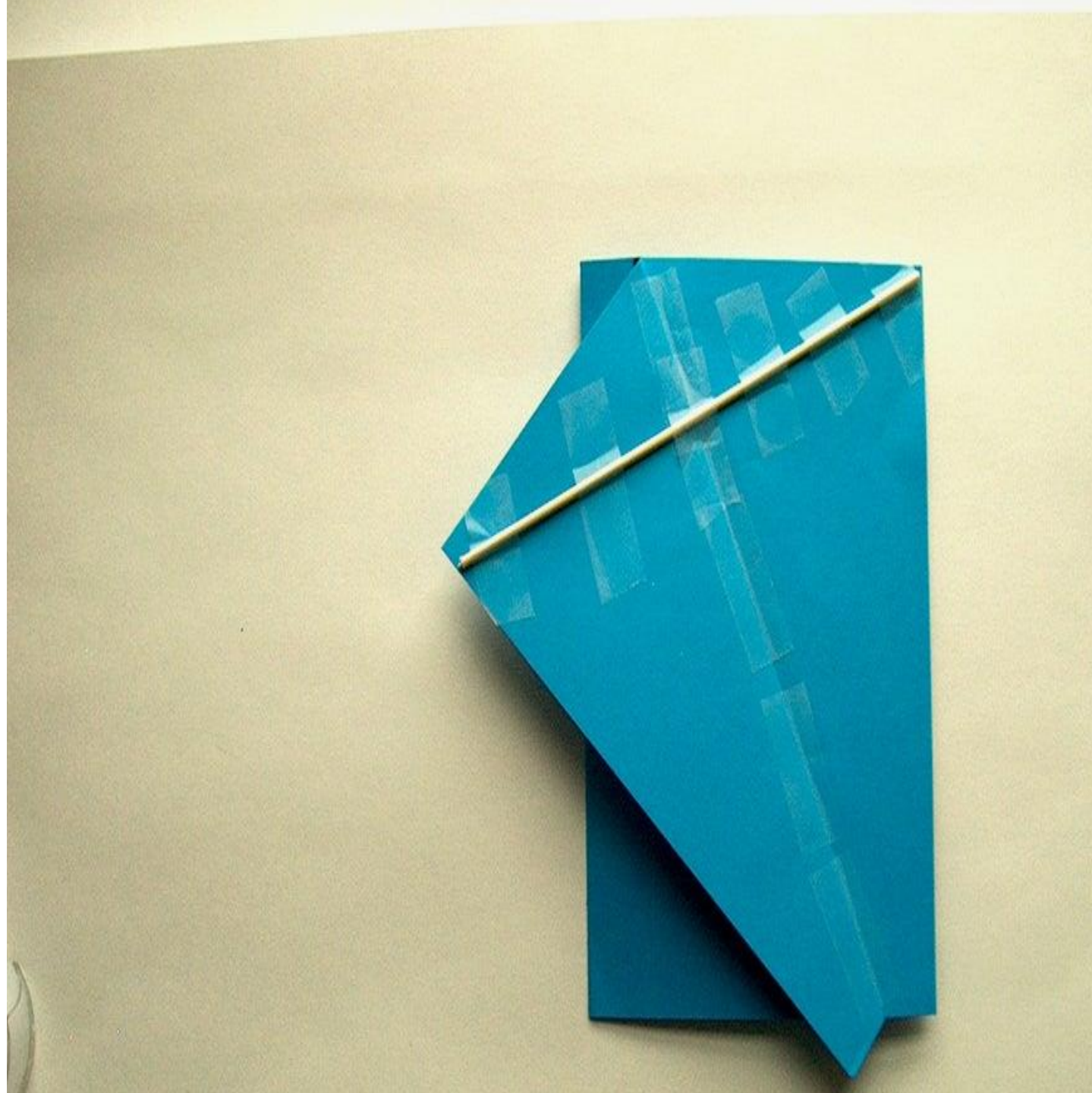
Next, flip the paper over and fold the other side down to match the side you just folded.



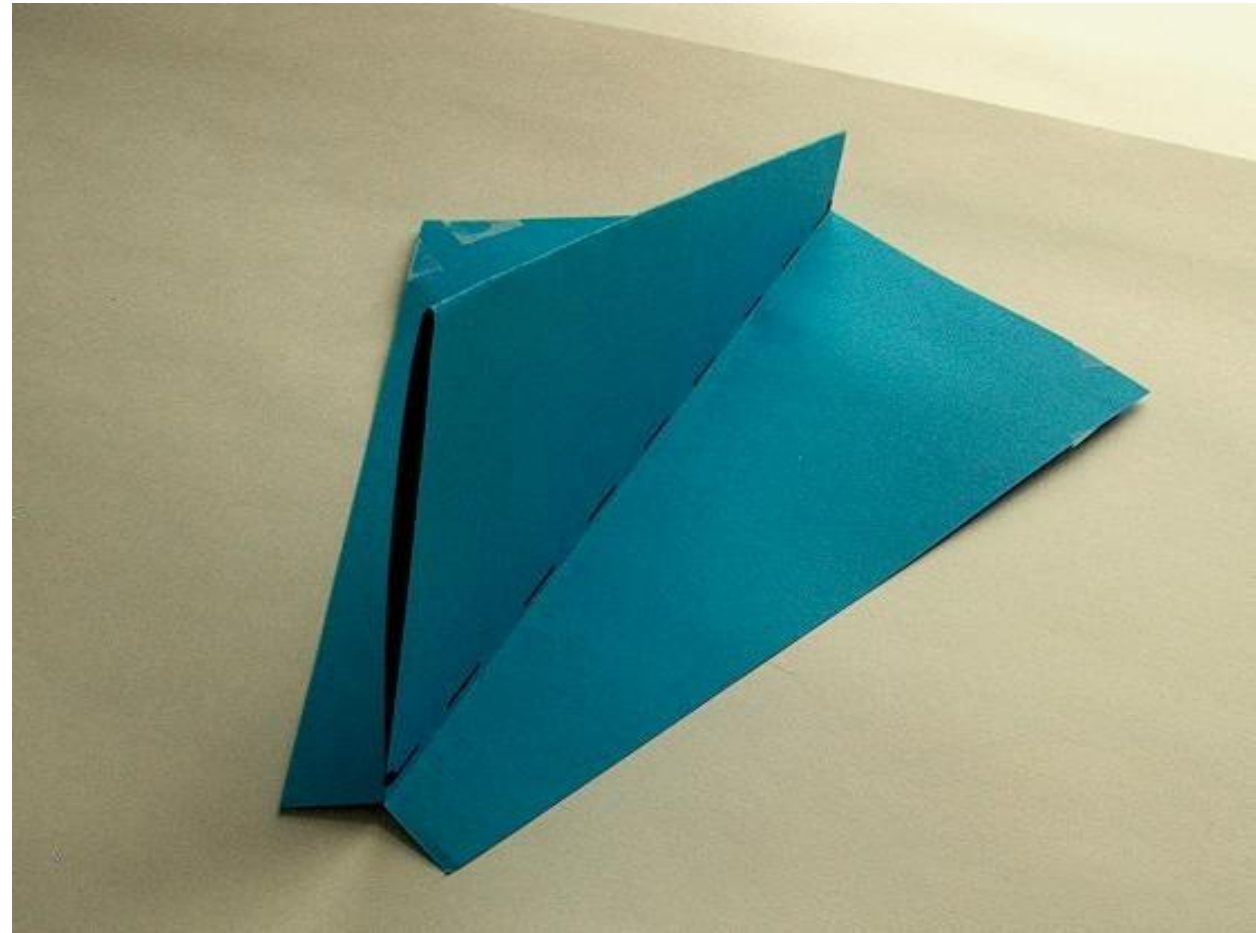
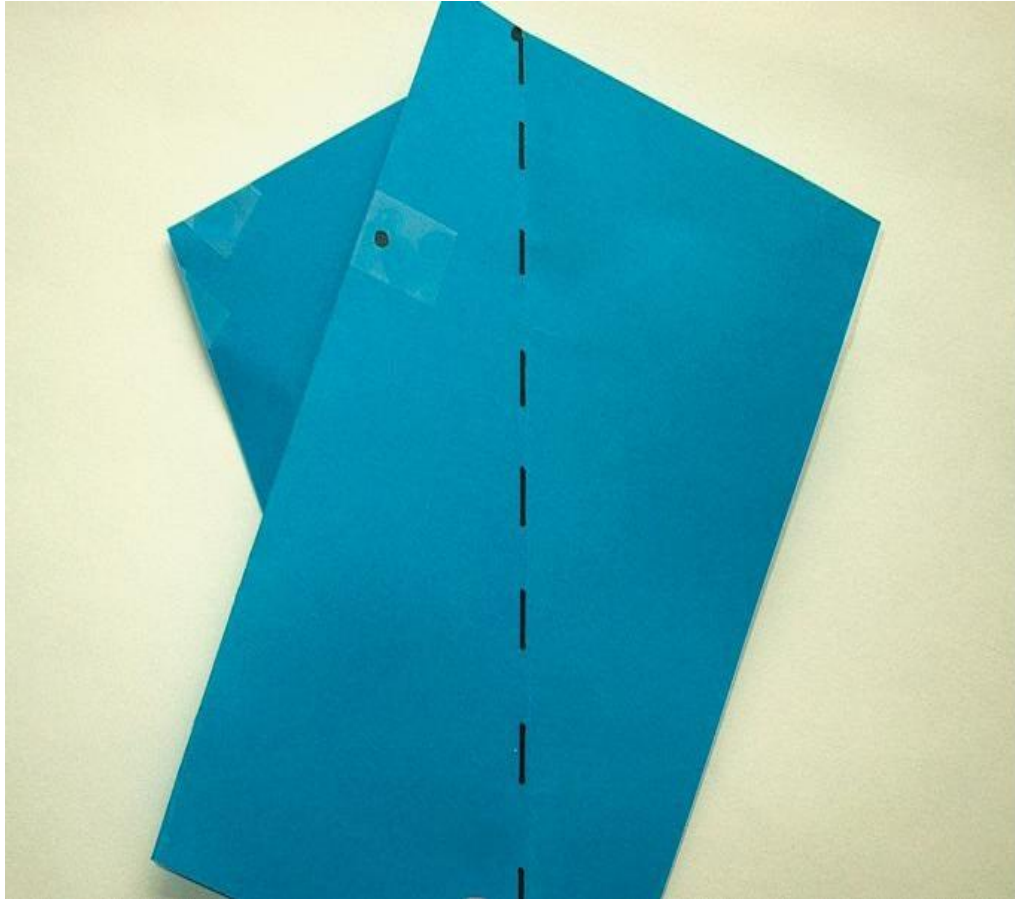
Fold the top corner of the paper down along the line that you've just created.



Lay a skewer across the kite, as shown, and tape it in place. You'll probably have to cut the skewer down to size with your scissors.



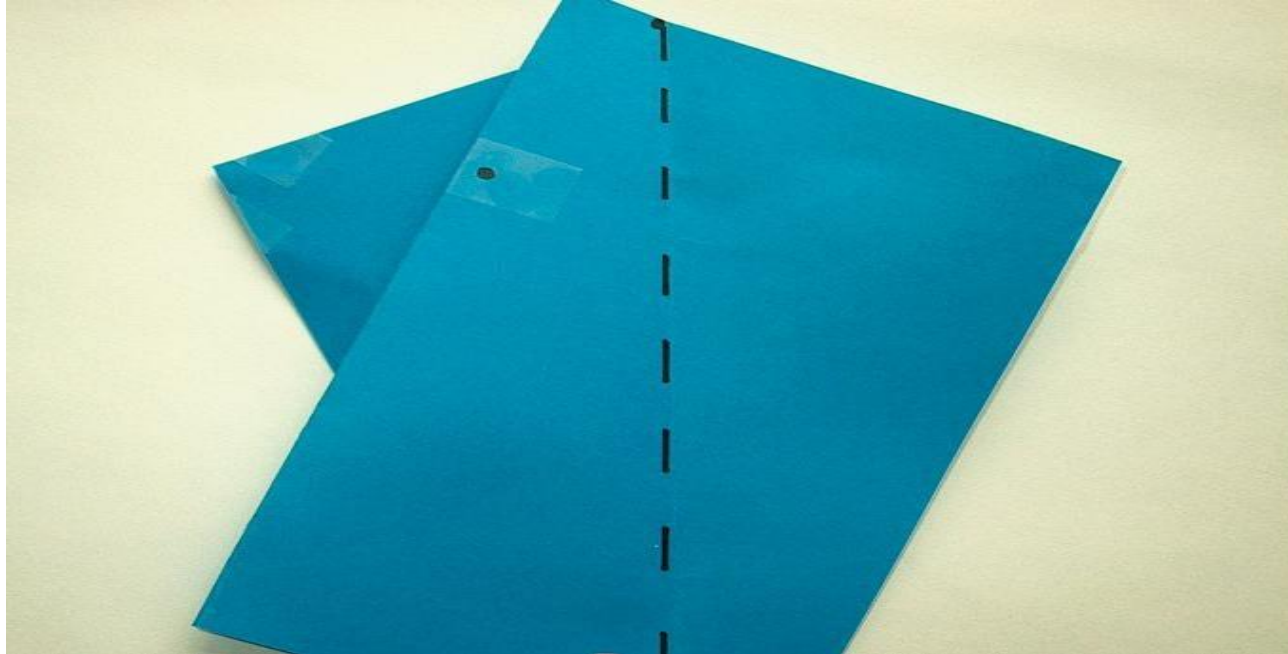
Flip the kite back over and straighten the "spine".



Mark a spot about a third of the way down the spine, and about half an inch from the edge. Put tape over this mark to reinforce it on both sides.

Use your hole punch or scissors to make a hole in this spot.

Tie your kite string through this hole. Make sure to use a good knot!



Tape a length of ribbon to the back of the kite, at the bottom.

If you use light ribbon like surveyors tape, the tail can be 6-10 feet long. Heavier ribbon should be shorter. You can experiment with the length; if it seems the kite can't hold up your ribbon as it flies, just trim it shorter.

