

## A Lengthy Shake

**Introduction:** With the weather turning warmer, students want to be outside having fun. This activity provides students with all of the fun they can handle. The students get to use a parachute and practice measuring lengths of things at the same time. So let's get ready to shake and learn!

**Grade Level and Subject:** 3rd Grade Math and P.E.

**TEKS:** Math – 11A (\*STAAR Supporting Standard), 15D  
P.E. – 2B, 3B, 3D, 5A, 7A, 7C

**Materials:** Parachute, strips of paper of different lengths, rulers (one for every child)

**Resource:** *The Ultimate Playground & Recess Game Book* by Guy Bailey. ISBN: 0-9669727-2-4

**Activity:** This activity requires the use of a parachute. A parachute is a large, circular piece of fabric that is lightweight and usually multicolored. The P.E. program at your school should have one for you to use during this lesson.

Before beginning the activity, the students should use paper in the classroom to make strips of different lengths. Any paper will do; however, the teacher might want to use construction paper for its durability. Each student should make two to three strips to be used on the parachute.

Once the students have made the paper strips, the teacher should take the students, strips, and parachute out to a very large playing area. The teacher should also collect all of the students' rulers and carry them out to the playing area.

The parachute should be laid on the ground gently. The teacher will then place all paper strips randomly on the parachute. All of the students will stand along the edge of the parachute and grab hold of its edge. The teacher needs to ensure that the students are evenly spaced around the parachute so that it floats on the air smoothly.

Once the students have picked up the parachute, they are to shake it vigorously by moving it up and down while standing in one place. Their objective is to shake all of the paper strips off of the parachute. The teacher can let them shake the parachute until all of the paper strips are off of it or set a predetermined time that the students will be allowed to shake the paper strips off of the parachute. Once the paper strips are off of the parachute or the time is up, the students are to race around and grab two or three (depending on how many paper strips were made) of the paper strips. The teacher will then hand out the rulers, and the students can measure the lengths of the paper strips. When all of the paper strips have been measured, the activity can begin again.

The teacher might want to take up all of the rulers before the activity begins again so that none of the rulers get broken or become weapons!

To avoid confusion, the teacher might want to tell the students that they are not to look for the paper strips that they made but to look for any paper strips to measure with their rulers.

**Evaluation:** The teacher will monitor the students while they are measuring the paper strips to determine if the students are measuring correctly.



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