

Swirling seed helicopter



What you need:

- A4 paper
- Scissors
- Printer (optional)
- Seed (optional)
- Paper clip (optional)

Instructions:

1. Download and print a copy of the Swirling seed helicopter template on page 2 or draw your own design.
2. Cut the template out: cutting along the dotted lines and folding along the solid orange lines.
3. Fold wing A and wing B down in opposite directions.
4. Fold up the flap E at the bottom of the template.
5. Then fold flap C and flap D inwards, onto the centre blue area.
6. If you want to, place a paper clip or seed on the bottom of the helicopter. See the video clip: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ahDaiuEse51-zySnXXFkWakEDHQ4gh89/view?usp=sharing> to see the instructions in action.
7. Take your seed helicopter to a high place, release it and let it fly!
8. Observe how it moves and which features help it to fly well.
9. Try other seed helicopter designs. How far can you make your seed fly?

How it works:

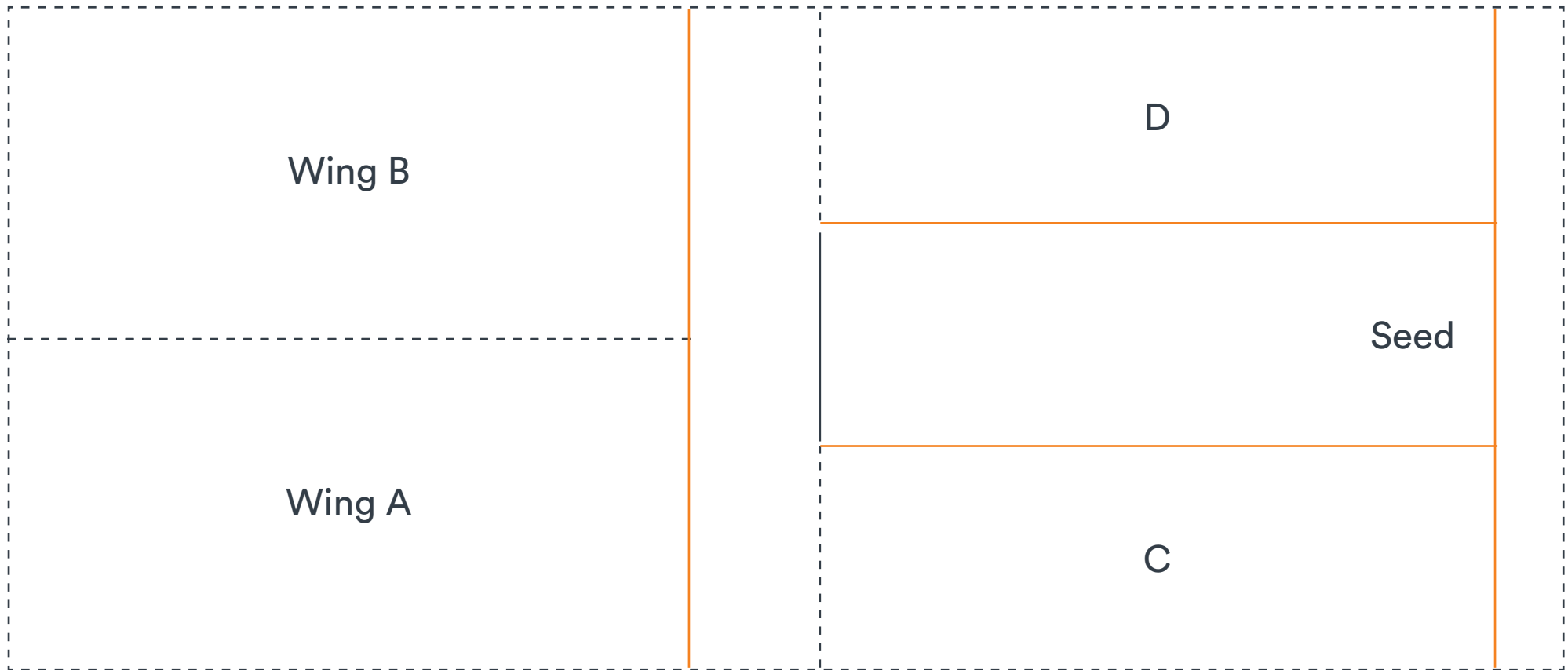
How does a helicopter seed fly?

Seeds like sycamore and maple seeds fly a little like helicopters, as their seeds are shaped a bit like helicopter blades and they are very light. The angle of the wings compared to the body, their off centred position and the rotating blades create a vortex-like swirling of air above the blades, which provides lift, allowing the helicopter seed to spin and fly. Their efficient flight helps to propel them far away from the parent plant and gives the new plant the best chance of enough light, space and nutrients to grow without too much competition. Can you find any other seeds that spin like a helicopter?

Thanks to Mrs B TV on Instagram for the inspiration: [Mrs. B TV on Instagram!](#)

Swirling seed helicopter

Swirling seed helicopter template



Cut dotted lines - - - - -

Fold solid lines ————