

Washington State International Kite Festival

A Local Legacy

Not only is a kite fun to fly, but it is also beautiful to watch.

There are many different kinds of **kites** -- some much more complex than others. One of the simplest kinds is the **diamond kite**. It has a flat **surface** formed by two sticks tied into a cross and a tail that helps keep it stable. It flies nicely in light to medium **winds**.

Throughout history kites have been used for many different purposes, including to deliver messages, catch fish, **spy** on enemies, measure the weather and send radio signals. Today, kites are mostly flown for pleasure.

Every August, the Washington State International Kite Festival takes place in the southwest corner of Washington on the Long Beach Peninsula. There are **workshops** that teach people how to build, **decorate** and fly kites. There are also competitions for kids, adults and **seniors**. On the last day of the festival, everyone is welcome to fly a kite at the same time, creating a colorful, beautiful sight!

If you fly a kite, make sure you have clear, wide open spaces away from roads, trees, power lines and airports. And never fly in rain or storms. So go out and fly a kite!

Vocabulary:

Kite – is a flat surface formed by two sticks tied into a cross and a tail that keeps it stable.

Diamond shape – is a quadrilateral, a 2-dimensional flat figure that has four closed, straight sides

Stable – steady, firm. secure

Spy - attempts to discover your **enemy's** secret

Wind - is moving air and is caused by differences in air pressure within our atmosphere.

Pleasure - a feeling of happy satisfaction and enjoyment.

Workshop - a meeting at which a group of people engage in intensive discussion and activity on a particular subject or project.



Decorate – garnish, enhance, beautify

Surface – shallow, superficial, exterior

Senior – older people above 60's

Discussion:

Have you ever flown a kite?

What types of kites are most common?

Would you consider to fly a kite nowadays?

Would you teach or show your kids how to fly a kite?

