

# STEAM Windsock

## Step-by-Step Instructions



Today is all about things that move! You may have noticed windsocks on the side of a highway or at airports. Windsocks are used to show the direction and speed of wind in places like airports. Wind is air that is in motion. A windsock can help measure speed and direction of wind. Wind enters from one side and exits through the other. This shows the direction of the wind. If it's really windy, the windsock will fly horizontally, if it's less windy, it will droop. It is important for pilots to know how windy it is when they are taking off and landing planes.



Pictured above is a postcard of Malton Airport in Mississauga from around 1945 from the PAMA Archives collection. You probably know Malton Airport better as Toronto Pearson International Airport, which it was renamed to in 1958. Did you know that there is an Airplane Viewing Platform that looks onto the airport? It is located at Danville Park near Kennedy Road and Courtneypark Drive in Mississauga. You can also see a windsock at the park.

Windsocks are fun to make and they also make great decorations for the home! After making your windsock, hang it outside and see for yourself what happens when the wind is blowing. Can you tell which direction the wind is blowing and how strong the wind is?

**Materials:** Paper, Colouring Tools (Markers, Pastels, Pencil Crayons, etc.), Tape or Glue, Tissue Paper or Streamers, String

## 1. Decorate

Decorate the paper that will be used for the windsock. Any paper will work, but a thicker paper like cardstock will last longer in the wind.



## 2. Make your tube

Roll the paper into a cylinder and glue or tape the edges together to create a tube.



## 3. Add tissue paper

Glue or tape long pieces of tissue paper or streamers so they hang from the bottom edge of the tube.



## 4. Add a handle

Make two holes directly across from each other on the tube (the side that does not have the tissue paper). Run a piece of string through the holes and tie the ends of the string into a knot. You can also staple a piece of string into place.



## 5. Take it outside

Find a place to hang your windsock and watch the wind make it soar! Remember: in case of rain, the materials used today are not waterproof.