QUICK PROJECT
WALKALONG GLIDER
and hold your Walk-Along Glider in the other hand above and slightly in front of the panel.

7. Release the Walk-Along Glider and quickly readjust your grip on the panel and hold it by its sides at a roughly 30° angle.

8. Follow the Walk-Along Glider – not too quickly or slowly – and see how far you can fly it! You can even steer the Walk-Along-Glider by turning the cardboard panel left or right.

How does the Walk-Along Glider Work?

As you walk forward, the air hits your cardboard panel and is diverted upward, like air hitting a mountain or cliff. This creates something called “slope lift”. Slope lift is generated when wind blows against some sort of obstacle, be it a hillside, cliff, or an ocean wave, causing the air to rise. This creates a region of air directly above the slope, which can and is utilized by birds and humans alike. The strongest lift can be achieved by initiating a flight path that intersects with the rising air at a right angle. In the Walk-Along Glider activity, the flight path intersects with the rising air at a right angle by dropping the Walk-Along Glider straight down toward the cardboard panel, which acts as the slope.

SLOPE SOARING

Slope Soaring gliders operate on the same principles as your walk-along glider! Check out youtu.be/IGVEUfwLdB0

CHALLENGE

Check out this video for some ideas on how to create a competition in your home! youtu.be/MI9uxolFHxM

STANDARDS

4.PS.2 Investigate the relationship of the speed of an object to the energy of that object.

4.PS.4 Describe and investigate the different ways in which energy can be generated and/or converted from one form of energy to another form of energy.

ACTIVITY

1. Make photocopies of the master copy of the Walk-Along Gliders and distribute one to each student. Use the template to trace out the glider from a sheet of phone-book paper.

2. Instruct the students to cut out the Walk-Along Gliders and bend up each end at a 90° angle, creating winglets.

3. With the logo facing away from them, instruct the students to carefully bend the front edge, or leading edge, down and bend the back edge, or trailing edge, up.

4. To execute a test flight of the Walk-Along Glider, hold it by the trailing edge and drop it so that it flutters downward. If it doesn’t go straight down, that means the winglets are not at a 90° angle. Check your angles and readjust them as needed!

5. The Walk-Along Glider flies best in still, calm air in a large space like an auditorium or hallway.

6. To fly the Walk-Along Glider, hold the cardboard panel by the top edge at a slight angle in one hand,
Did you know?

AMAFlightschool.org is the AMA education resource designed to answer the question...

HOW DO I?

WWW.AMAFLIGHTSCHOOL.ORG