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Kites! Kites were formerly used extensively for measuring temperature, pressure, humidity and even wind speed aloft, but have been superseded to a great extent by other, more efficient devices. Kites were also used for military signaling and photography. It is said that Sir Isaac Newton introduced kite-flying to his schoolmates, but it has been a national pastime with the people in Eastern Asia from time immemorial. The Chinese would stiffen that part of the kite string next the kite with glue impregnated with crushed glass. Then the trick was to get one's kite to windward of one's adversary and by a sudden jerk cut the enemy's kite cord and bring the kite in disaster to the ground.

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