

Paper Airplane Aerodynamics



WHAT YOU NEED:

- piece of printer paper
- tape
- paperclip
- tape measure or ruler

HOW TO:

1. Fold your paper to make a paper airplane.
2. Try it out. Throw your airplane and measure how far it flew.
3. Make some modifications. Add tape or a paper clip to the nose to see if you can get it to fly farther. Measure how far it flew.
4. Try making a different paper airplane fold design with a different piece of paper.
5. Which design flies better? Further? Does it fly smoother or further than your first airplane?

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Four forces affect an airplane while it is flying: weight, thrust, drag and lift. When you throw the paper airplane, you are seeing all four of these forces and how they make the plane go.

If you need help finding a design, there are many available online.

Check out one of the books below at the library.



foldnfly.com



FUN FACT

The record distance for a paper airplane to be thrown is 290 feet!

Related Books:



Amazing Paper Airplanes
by Kyong Hwa Lee



Paper Planes
by David Mitchell



My First Guide to Paper Airplanes
by Christopher L. Harbo



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