



Design a Paper Airplane

Explore the principles of flight by building and testing paper airplanes!

Materials Needed:

Paper, colored pencils or markers
Optional: tape, ruler, measuring tape, scissors, stopwatch.

Instructions:

Step 1: Take a blank piece of paper and fold a paper airplane. See the folding instructions on the next page, or use your favorite paper airplane design.

Hint: Press along each fold with a ruler or fingernail. This will help make sure the fold is crisp and stays in place.



Step 2: Use colored pencils or markers to decorate your paper airplane. Be creative!



Step 3: Fly your paper airplane! Find an area clear of people and other hazards. Gently toss your airplane. How far did it fly? You can use a ruler or measuring tape to record the distance.



Step 4: Adjust your design and try again! Try folding the wing tips up, making the wings wider or skinnier, or adding a piece of tape to keep the nose from unfolding. Can you make your airplane fly farther?

Step 5: Keep experimenting! Try different airplane designs; patterns can be found at www.foldnfly.com (suggested designs include the Stable, Buzz, and

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Paper Airplane Folding Instructions



[Image courtesy of Air Force Research Laboratory.](#)

Find more paper airplane designs and how-to videos:

www.foldnfly.com