

Word Wall



Explore aeronautical vocabulary by making paper airplanes.

Ages: 6-15 years old

Time: Two 45-60 minutes sessions (minimum)

Materials Needed:

Paper, scissors, tape, paper clips, Internet access, space

Instructions:

1. Using whiteboard or digital projection system, write the main component of an airplane. If desired, ask participants to brainstorm the names of plane parts. (ex: wing, fuselage, rudder, elevator, spoiler, cockpit, etc.)
2. Using the list as a guide, have participants research the definitions of each word using the internet.
3. Using the provided supplies, have participants work individually or as a team to build a paper airplane and label its parts.
4. After each person (or team) has built a plane, have a test flight measuring the speed and distance each plane flew.



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5. Have the teams group paper plane models into four categories: (1) travels fast and far; (2) travels fast not far; (3) travels slow but far; (4) travels slow not far.
6. Allow teams to brainstorm reasons for the different performance between plane models. Encourage participants to use the vocabulary just learned.
7. Allows teams to make a revised model based on what they just learned. This time, teams must label the part(s) of the plane that were modified.
8. Allow time for a final test flight and reflection upon the results.

Youth Development

Ideas:

If desired, allow participants to measure and track results using a spreadsheet application. Participants can then graph and track the results of their building experiments.

Consider having the group “publish” the results of their building experiments. What did the group learn about the relationship between modifications to the parts of the plane and quality of flight?

Submitted By:

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