

Can it fly?



The Wright brothers, Orville and Wilbur designed, built, and flew the first controlled, powered, plane on December 17, 1903.



The Wright brothers Orville Wright and Wilbur Wright



They had been experimenting for many years with gliders and other vehicles before their first powered flight!



Internet investigation

Can you find out other interesting facts about the Wright brothers?

- What toys did they have when they were little?
- Why were they so interested in flying?
- Before inventing flying machines they owned a shop, what did they sell?
- Did they ever fly together?





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Paper Plane Experiments

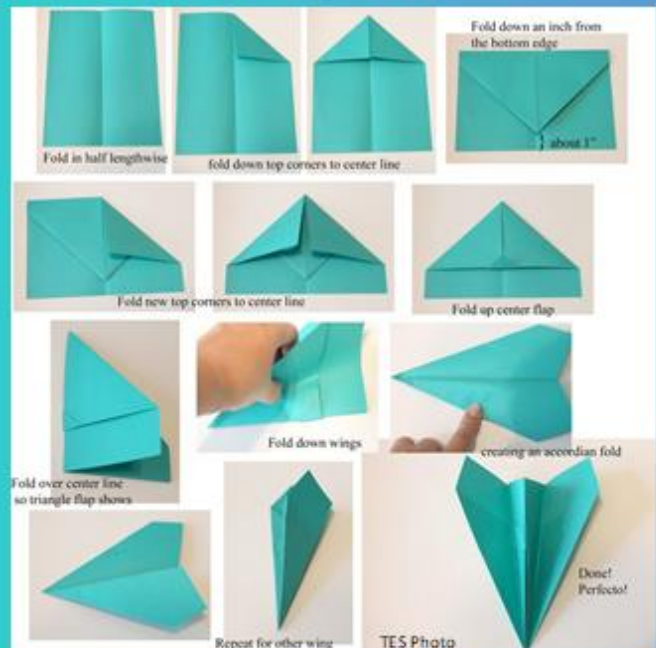
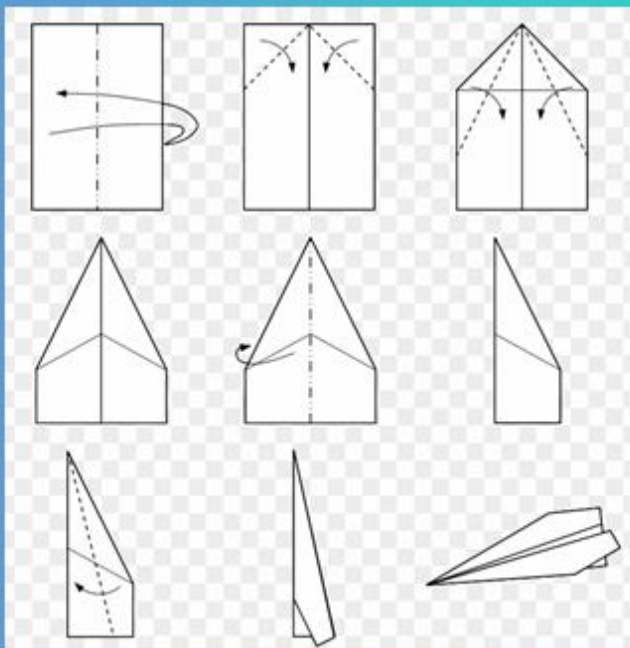


Have you ever wondered what makes a paper plane fly? Some paper planes fly much better than others. But why? One factor is the kind of design used to build the plane. Can you be like the Wright brothers and experiment with paper planes and gliders to see which design you think is the best?

Aerodynamics is the study of how air moves around a solid object. The more aerodynamic a flying object is, the better it will fly!

How to make a paper plane, get ready to start folding!

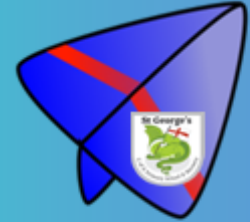
Alternatively YouTube 'how to fold a paper plane' for a step by guide.





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Paper Plane Experiments



Time to adapt and modify your design!

You could change the size of your plane. Make different size paper planes then compare how well they fly. Do the big or small planes fly the furthest?

You may want to add paper clips to your plane to see if it flies better. Try adding a paper clip (or multiple paper clips) to different parts of your paper plane (such as the front, back, middle or wings) and then flying it. How does this affect the plane's flight? Does adding paper clips make its flight better or worse?



Try changing the paper, you could use a thicker or thinner paper, card or newspaper. Remember to use the same design for each one. Which paper/card works the best? Does one type work the worst?

You could change your design completely! Have a look on YouTube for 'How to Make Easy Paper Airplanes that Fly Far', pick your favourite and follow the guide. You could learn how to make lots of different types to see which is the best!



We would love to see your paper plane experiments at school!