Project Skills:
Making a paper airplane

Life Skills:
Teamwork

WI Academic Standards:
Science C.4. Inquiry; D.4. Physical Science

Time:
20-30 minutes

Supplies:
• 2 - 8 1/2” x 11” sheets of paper per person
• 1 set of markers per 2 youth
• 2-3 small-sized paper clips per person
• Roll of masking tape
• Simple paper airplane template and Dart paper airplane template
• Runway Record sheet

Getting Ready:
• Use the masking tape to make a landing strip approximately 2’ x 6’.
• Practice making planes.

WHAT TO DO

Experiment making paper airplanes
1. Pair youth up and ask each of them to make at least two different kinds of paper airplanes. Have youth print numbers on the airplanes so they can tell them apart.
2. Have youth test fly each of their planes and decide jointly which two planes fly the best.

Conduct a runway landing flight test
1. Have teams take turns trying to land their airplane on the runway.
2. Record 5 points on the Runway Record Sheet when an airplane lands on the runway. Score 0 points if the plane does not land on the runway.
3. Record a plane’s result each time it is flown.
4. Make certain that everyone has the same number of flight tests.
5. Announce which plane(s) scored the most points. Congratulate your winning design team.

TALK IT OVER

Try to get each youth to express his or her feelings and experiences.

Reflect:
• How did your team change an airplane design to make it fly better?
• How did your team decide which two planes to use in the official Landing Flight Test?

Apply:
• When are other times that you have been a member of a team?
• Next time, what could you do to be a better team member?

Adapted from 4HCCS Aerospace project series
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Dart Paper Airplane Template
(fold at dotted lines)

Crease paper in half

Fold corners down

Should looks like this

Fold sides into center crease

Should looks like this

Fold plane in half at center crease

Fold wings down

Should looks like this