

Designed for Flight

Paper Airplane Contest

Supplies

Two pieces of paper (preferably heavy construction paper)

Two pieces of tape (up to two inches each)

Two paper clips

Measuring tape (50 feet or more)

A stop watch

A large open room to fly the airplanes (such as a gymnasium or cafeteria)

Procedure

1. Break the class into groups of three to five students, asking each group to design two types of airplanes: one that is designed to fly the greatest distance and another that is designed to fly for the longest time.
2. Fine tune the flight performance of your paper airplanes by using the tape strips and paper clips (ie. weigh down the front of your plane with a paper clip to reduce too much lift).
3. Have each group come up with reasons why the designs they have chosen should work best.
4. Hold a fly-off in which each group competes against another group.
5. The winner advances to fly again. If you have an odd number of groups at any time, you can have the groups draw for a bye in rounds.

