Aircraft Design and Identification Activities

Painting an aircraft is a big deal, and after years of designing and building the X-59, this experimental aircraft is no exception. When an aircraft gets painted this becomes their uniform, or their livery. An adaptation of the original use of the word, which was used for uniform-style clothing, livery for an aircraft includes the color(s), graphics, and other symbols that have been added to it for identification, marketing, commemoration of a special day, or simply a way to express uniqueness. This is an important moment in history for the plane and the crew that had a hand in its creation. If multiple companies, agencies, or people are involved in an aircraft’s design and construction, designs, colors, logos, and other details are carefully designed and debated over, so everyone’s needs are met.

To commemorate NASA’s newest experimental aircraft, the X-59 and the X-66, we have compiled a few of our STEM activities to help students express their creativity, learn more about aircraft livery and designs, and help us celebrate exciting milestones in NASA’s aeronautics research. Most recently, the X-59 has been moved to the “paint barn” to get its first coat of paint.

Help NASA celebrate our newest X-planes and designs with the activities below.

Learn more about NASA’s X-59 and the Quesst mission.

Learn about NASA’s sustainable aviation work and the X-66.

ACTIVITIES

Make Your Own X-59
Design your paper airplane:
Use this template to fold your own X-59 paper airplane and add design and color.

X-59 3D Printing
X-59 3D model: Print the 3D model with colorful or white filament, then use acrylic or enamel paints to design your own livery on the X-59 (or replicate our paint scheme).

X-59 Coloring Page
With this coloring page, create your own design of the X-59. Show off your graphic design skills by drawing an insignia or other images to make this X-59 your own.

X-66 Coloring Page
Before the X-66 had its X-plane designation, it was called the Transonic Truss-Braced Wing. Have some fun creating colors and designs for the TTBW (now called the X-66).

Color by Number
Looking for a coloring page with more of a challenge. Try this color by number of a Schlieren image of the X-59. Put your own spin on the colors you choose.

Name that Plane
N-Numbers and aircraft identification: When you register your aircraft and give it an N-Number, you are adding to its uniqueness. Try this activity and give your own X-59 design some proper identification.