Paper Plane Races



DID YOU KNOW?



Cambridgeshire businesses, such as MathWorks, are helping to solve some of the biggest problems facing the world today. They design software that enables engineers to create efficient designs. MathWorks works closely with the aviation industry, helping make aeroplanes more efficient and more environmentally friendly. Can you design a creative paper plane? Which goes furthest?

RESOURCES:

- Selection of paper, thin card, newspaper, tinfoil, other foldable sheets
- Decorative materials colouring pens, paint, stickers, sequins, feathers, etc.



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FORM THE FUTURE

ACTIVITY:

Design and build 'paper planes' using different papers, cards and other materials.

- 1. Put out a range of papers, coloured paper, card, tinfoil, and any other comparable material, along with some example paper plane designs.
- 2. Use the templates, or other designs you know, to support the children to make, colour and decorate a paper plane using the materials provided.
- 3. Test the planes in a safe space. Which design flies furthest? Which material?
- 4. Talk about why a plane might fly farther than another.

CHALLENGES:

- Which plane can fly the farthest? How can we check?
- Can you make a different design? What about a different material? A different colour? Does it work better or not?
- Does a lighter coloured plane fly further because it is lighter?
- Can you make the wings bigger? Does that help it fly further?

Cambridge LaunchPad is a collaboration of Greater Cambridge science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) organisations, who invest their talent and resources to inspire school children and young people into STEM careers. Our Industry Partners and School Partners are at the heart of the programme experience. By connecting education and employment, we can showcase the diverse range of careers and education pathways into STEM industries and meet the growing demand for a skilled workforce in the Greater Cambridge region.

