



Dear Educator,

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The “Aviation” unit offers [16 pages](#).

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AVIATION



AVIATION

Aviation is about the vehicles that travel in the air. This includes the skills of designing, building, operating, and maintaining these craft.



Aircraft can have wings or rotors or both. This group of vehicles also include balloons and airships. Not all aircraft need to have a motor.

A glider is designed to hold one person and has no motor. It starts its flight by being pulled behind a small airplane into the air. It is released when it has enough speed and then uses thermal drafts to stay in the air.

Balloons can be unmanned and used for scientific research. Many countries use research balloons to get information about conditions hundreds of feet above the earth's surface. These are called captive balloons because they are tied to the ground to keep them in the same place. They are usually filled with helium. They have packages with scientific instruments attached to the bottom of the balloons. These instruments send information back to the control station.



Read each sentence below. Fill in the missing word.

1. Aircraft can have _____ or rotors or both.
2. A glider is designed to hold one person and has no _____.
3. Balloons can be _____ and used for scientific research.
4. Research balloons are filled with _____.

AVIATION

Airplanes have three major body parts. They are the wings, the tail, and the fuselage. Whether it is a paper airplane or a jumbo jet, these need to be in the design.

Early airplanes were designed with up to four sets of wings. From the Wright brothers and past the end of World War I, biplanes were the most common seen and used. A biplane has two sets of wings. The area where the pilot sat (cockpit) and maybe one passenger behind him, were open to the air. Closed cockpits were not developed until the 1930s.



The tail of an airplane is the same as a rudder on a boat. the pilot controls the angle of the tail to allow him to turn the plane.

The fuselage is the body of the plane. This is where the pilot and any other people sit. Cargo or passengers travel in the fuselage. Most of the mechanical parts are also located here.

The fuel tanks are also in the fuselage. The shape of the fuselage is very important. A long, slender shape reduces the effect of drag.



Read each word. Write the definition beside each word.

1. rudder _____

2. cockpit _____

2. jet _____



AVIATION

Criss Cross

Can you fit these words into the criss cross?
Use a pencil so you can erase if you need to.

fuel
drag

jet
plane

pilot
cargo

helicopter
wings

