Fold It, Test It, Fly It!

Build Three Paper Airplanes and Find Out How They Fly

Ali Haroon

Ages 8–11



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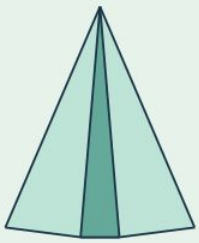
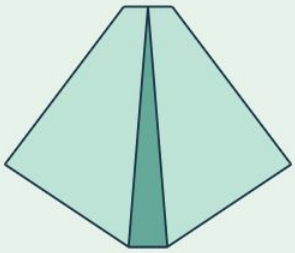
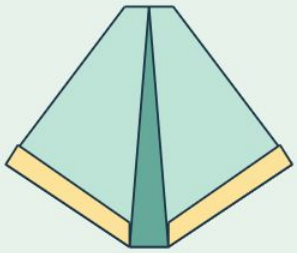


Dart



Wide-Wing Glider



Stunt Plane

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Written by Ali Haroon

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YOUR FLIGHT KIT

Get Ready to Fly

Gather your supplies

Use three or more sheets of matching printer paper, a ruler, a tape measure, a timer, a pencil, and removable tape for your floor marks.

Pick a flight lane

Ask an adult to help you choose a clear space. Launch only when the lane is empty. Aim away from faces, windows, and breakable things.

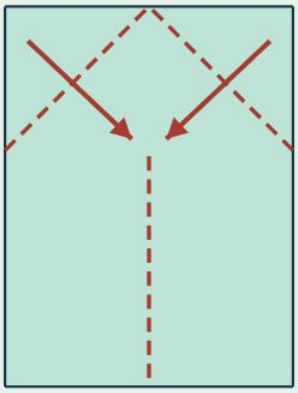
Mark a starting line

Use a piece of tape. Stand behind it for each throw. Choose one person to throw and another to record each landing.

Turn off fans if you can. Indoors, use a space long enough that the planes can land without touching a wall.

BEFORE YOU BUILD

Read the Fold Drawings



Where to crease

Which way to move the paper

A folded layer

Read each picture from left to right. A crease is the line left after you fold and press the paper.

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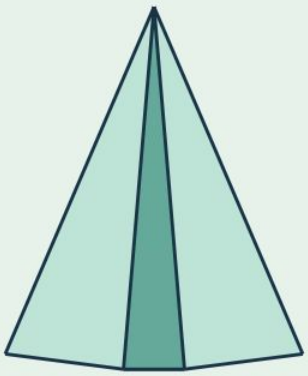
MODEL 1 / BUILD

The Dart

Will a narrow paper plane fly straight?



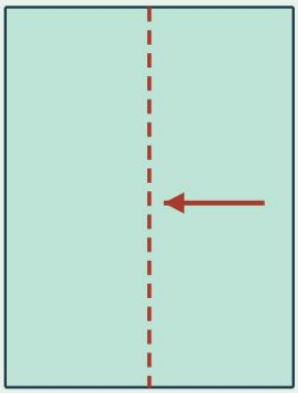
You'll need

One sheet of ordinary A4 or US Letter printer paper and a ruler. Use the same type and size of paper for all three models.

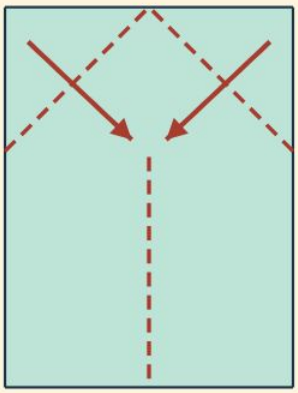
The Dart has a pointed nose and narrow wings. Make it first, then find out what it does with a gentle, level throw.

My prediction and why

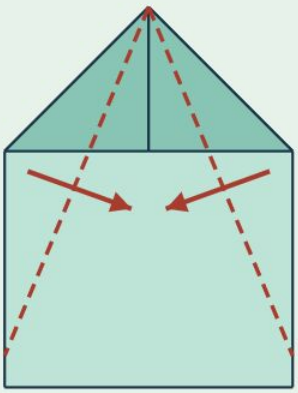
Make the Nose



Find the center



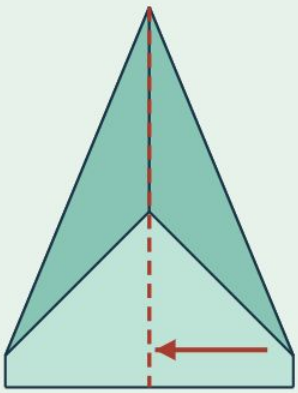
Fold both corners



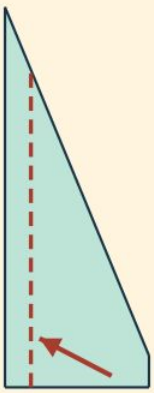
Narrow the nose

1. Place the paper with a short edge at the top. Fold it in half lengthwise. Press the crease, then reopen it.
2. Fold the two top corners inward so the top edges meet at the center crease.
3. Fold the two new slanted edges inward until they meet at the center crease.

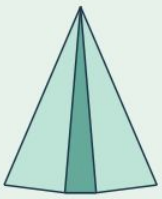
Make the Wings



Fold the body



Fold the wings

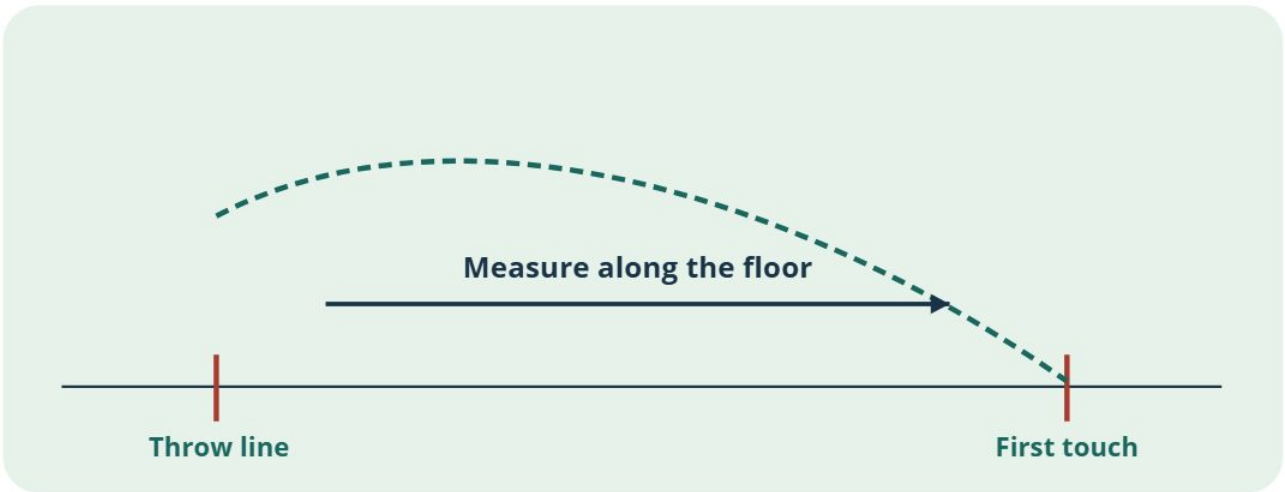


Open both wings

1. Fold the plane in half along the center crease with the earlier folds on the outside.
2. Set it on its side. Fold the top layer down along a line parallel to the bottom crease. Leave about 2 cm (¾ inch) of body below that fold so you have a place to grip.
3. Turn it over and match the second wing to the first. Open both wings until they are level and even.

Measure the Dart's Flight

Have a helper watch where the plane first touches the floor. Measure from the throw line straight ahead to the same point along the flight lane. If it lands off to one side, measure forward distance, not the diagonal.



Make three gentle, level throws. Use the same thrower, starting line, and release height. Retrieve the plane after it lands.

Record Your Flights

Use the same unit for all three distances. Mark the direction from the thrower's point of view.

Trial	Forward distance	Straight, left, or right?
1		
2		
3		

Longest flight and its distance

Did the plane usually fly straight?

END OF FREE SAMPLE

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