

# Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Ask & Answer Questions

Read the short story and answer each question.



## The History of Paper Airplanes

Paper airplanes may seem like simple toys, but they have a long and fascinating history. In fact, some historians believe the first paper airplanes were made over 2,000 years ago in ancient China. People folded paper to look like birds, possibly for ceremonies or to learn about flight.

In the early 1900s, scientists and engineers began using paper airplanes to study how real planes might fly. A paper airplane could help them test ideas without needing to build a full-sized model. Even today, engineers use paper to experiment with wing shapes and designs.

There are many different types of paper airplanes. Some are made to fly long distances, while others are designed to do tricks or loops. The way you fold the wings and the shape of the nose can change how it moves through the air.

In 2012, a man named Joe Ayoob set a world record for the longest flight of a paper airplane—226 feet and 10 inches! His plane was designed by a paper airplane expert named John Collins, who spent years studying how air and angles affect flight.

So, the next time you fold a piece of paper into an airplane, remember: you're part of a long tradition of science, creativity, and flight!



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## The History of Paper Airplanes

1. Why did early scientists use paper airplanes in their experiments?

- A. To test flight ideas without building full-size planes
- B. To decorate their labs
- C. To make music with paper
- D. To sell them as toys

2. What does the author say changes how a paper airplane moves through the air?

- A. The fold of the wings and shape of the nose
- B. The type of paper used to write a story
- C. The color of the airplane
- D. The size of the table it is thrown from

3. Fill in the blank:

In 2012, a paper airplane flew more than 226 feet and set a world \_\_\_\_\_.

4. What are two reasons paper airplanes have been used throughout history? Use details from the text.

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5. How does the author show that paper airplanes are connected to both fun and science?

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# Parent and Teacher Guide

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**Guide Reading Level:** P

**Lexile Level:** 645L-795L

**Grade Level:** 3rd Grade, End of the Year

**Genre:** Informational / History & Engineering

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## Introducing the Text

*"Today we'll read about the history of paper airplanes and how they've been used for both fun and science. As we read, we'll practice asking and answering questions using facts and evidence from the text."*

**Vocabulary:** ceremony, engineer, tradition, design, experiment

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## Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever made or flown a paper airplane?
  2. Why do you think people study the way paper airplanes fly?
  3. What do you already know about how flight works?
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## During Reading Discussion Questions

1. How did engineers use paper airplanes in the early 1900s?
  2. What are some different reasons people fold paper airplanes?
  3. What details show how paper airplanes have changed over time?
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## After Reading Discussion Questions

1. What did you learn that surprised you about paper airplanes?
  2. Why do you think the author included a world record in this article?
  3. What evidence does the author give to support the idea that paper airplanes are important?
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## Activity Idea

Have students design and test their own paper airplane models. After three test flights, they should record which fold or wing design made their plane fly best and write a paragraph explaining their results using key vocabulary from the text.

