Structures of FLIGHT (Teacher Version)

High-Pressure Performance

Think about the demo your teacher did at the start of the lesson. Based on what you observed, can you explain what is happening to the airplane wing in the picture?

Air or Wind

More Pressure Up

This phenomenon is known as Bernouilli's Principle!

Let's Build a Hoopglider!

Materials:

- Plastic drinking straws
- Sheet of thick paper
- Scotch tape
- Scissors









Instructions:

- I. Cut off two strips of thick paper, one longer than the other.
- 2. Tape each into a ring, one to each end of the straw.
- 3. Hold the glider in the middle, hoops up and small hoop in front. Throw like a javelin.
- **Explore!** Try 2 different glider designs!

 Does the longer of straw make it go farther?

 Do more hoops make it fly farther?

 Do the hoops have to be lined up?

Forceful Flying

The diagram here shows the different forces on an airplane and on a glider. The difference between the two is that the airplane has a source of **thrust** for sustained flight, while a glider does not.

Can you identify where each force on both the airplane and the glider comes from?

Thrust: Air Air Thrust Drag

Drag: Air Air

Weight

Lift

Weight

Lift

Weight

Weight: Plane Mass Glider Mass

Let's Build a Boomerang!

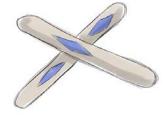
Materials:

- Pencil
- Cereal box card board
- Rubber bands
- Scissors









Instructions:

- I. Sketch two of the same kind of arm onto cardboard.
- 3. Fling your boomerang parallel to the ground like a Frisbee, or hold it vertical to the ground and snap your wrist to release it.
- 2. Cut out your sketched arms. Use rubber bands to connect the arms.

Explore!

Does the boomerang work better with one, two, or three arms?

Which arm design works best? Does symmetry play a role?

Talk About It!

- I. What are some similarities you notice about the design of real glider wings and boomerangs?
- They have a thickness and a curvature similar to the wing in the first diagram of page 1.
- 2. How does this design keep a glider or boomerang from falling?
- This wing design gives the boomerang **lift**, as discussed earlier.
- 3. For the unsuccessful throws, what property of air caused the boomerang or glider to fall back down to the Earth? **Drag** or air friction slows both structures down, but if not thrown properly, this can cause them to slow down enough to lose their lift and fall.





Australian Aboriginal Peoples

Centuries ago, the boomerang was actually used as a wooden hunting weapon. The Aboriginal people of Australia came up with the clever design to get the right size, weight, and shape. They were able to hit their target from far away, and were able to scare flocks of birds into nets because of the returning nature of the boomerang.



Name:

Image Sources:

High-Pressure Performance:

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Let's Build a Hoopglider:

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Forceful Flying:

I. Pilot's Web: http://www.pilotsweb.com/principle/forces.htm

Let's Build a Boomerang:

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- 3. Clker: http://www.clker.com/clipart-red-rubber-band.html
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- 5. Wikihow: http://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Boomerang

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Australian Aboriginal Peoples:

I. Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boomerang