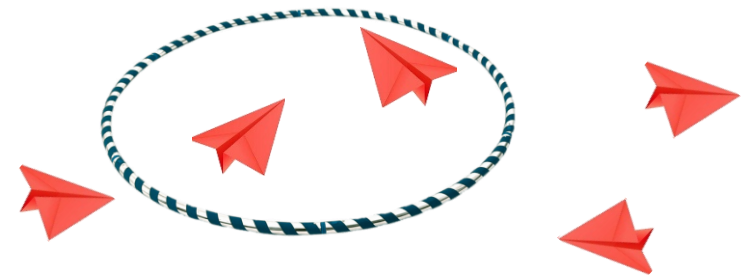
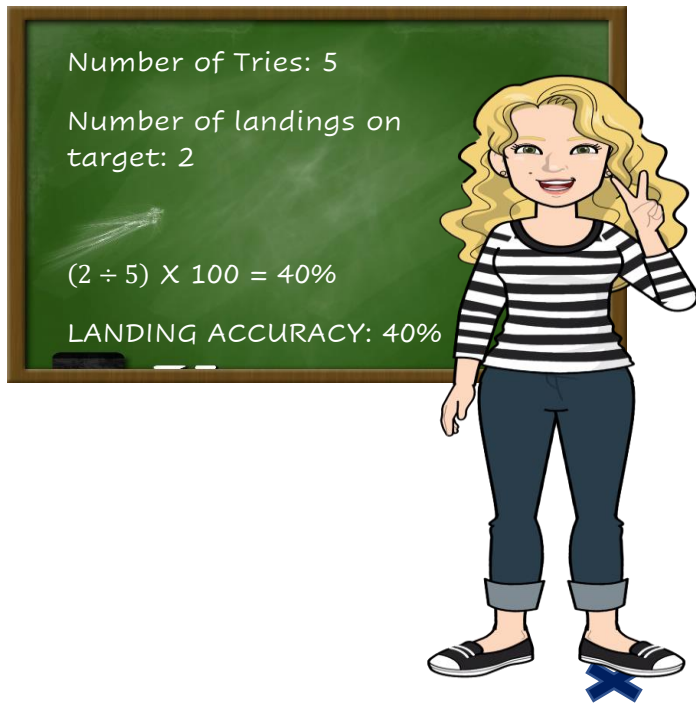




“Coming in for Landing”

Being a pilot is an amazing profession which requires a lot of hard work, dedication, technical skills, and yes, math and science skills! Most pilots will tell you that visiting different cities, meeting new people, and soaring above the Earth amongst the clouds make the hard work well worth it. This week’s STEM activity will help you practice your math skills and your visual acuity – two essential components of a pilot’s training. Try to land as many paper airplanes on the target as possible and increase your percentage of landing accuracy with this fun challenge.



Materials: Paper, target, tape measure, calculator (optional).

- 1) Fold a sheet of paper into a paper airplane design of your choice.
- 2) Mark a specific spot from which you will be launching your paper airplanes.
- 3) Using the tape measure, place your target exactly 6 ft away from your launching spot.
- 4) Standing on your launching spot, toss your paper plane so it lands on the target.
- 5) Record the number of times you are tossing your plane and the number of times it lands on the target.
- 6) To calculate your landing accuracy percentage, use the formula below:
Accuracy % = $\frac{\text{Number of Landings on Target}}{\text{Number of Tries}} \times 100$
- 7) Try again with different paper plane designs. Which ones work best? Why do you think that is?
- 8) How could you improve your landing accuracy percentage?