

Flying machines



Have you ever wondered how flying machines came about and who was the first to build one? Well let's have a look at how it all started shall we? It all started with the Wright Brothers, Orville and Wilbur Wright, who are credited with inventing the aeroplanes. They were the first to make a successful human flight with a craft that was powered by an engine and was heavier than air. Can you create your very own aeroplane using different materials you can find at home?

How it works:

Aeroplanes rely on four different scientific forces to fly - thrust, drag, weight and lift - all of which act against each other. When they are all balanced, a plane will fly in a nice, straight line.

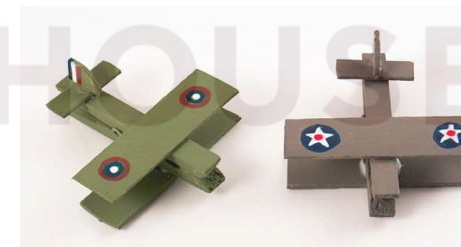
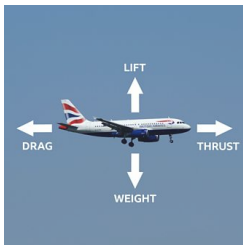
All four forces have to be present for a plane to get into the air, but lift is what keeps it there.

Lift is generated by the wings and they have changed a lot in the last 100 years. Let's see how they work.



Key vocabulary:

- Forces of flight
- Lift
- Drag
- Thrust
- Weight
- Wings
- Engine
- Balance



After you have created your flying machine, see if you can measure how long your flying machine is in the air. Then check to see if you can alter anything to change the time for it to stay in the air for longer!