

**BECAUSE
OF THEM
WE CAN**

BOX

JUST FOR KIDS

BECAUSE OF THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

AGES 5-8

BOTWC MINIS POSING AS
THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN



TAKEOFF!

HOW THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN CAME TO BE

Read the text below to learn more about the Tuskegee Airmen and how their work helped to shape the future of African Americans in the US Army Air Force.



Can you imagine someone thinking you couldn't do something because of the color of your skin? You may be surprised to know that, due to racist beliefs, some people did not think that African Americans could learn how to fly and operate planes. The Tuskegee Airmen did more than prove that idea wrong. They were significant in the eventual **integration** of Black pilots into the US Army Air Force.

The Tuskegee Airmen were the first Black pilots and airmen in the United States Army Air Force. The group was **founded** in 1941 and trained at the Tuskegee army airfield in Alabama. To encourage more African Americans they created the Tuskegee experiment, which was a program for Black pilots. There were 13 members of the first class in 1941. Even with their training, the airmen were not respected or even given

the same quality of living, opportunities, or even equipment as the white men they fought alongside - due to **segregation**.

However, that did not stop them from earning a very good **reputation** and winning several honors and awards. In one mission they destroyed 12 enemy planes in two days. During World War II they broke many records including one of the lowest loss records, which means they prevented people from being killed in the war.

The best known of the Tuskegee Airmen were **nicknamed** the "Redtails" because of the red paint on the tails of the plane. Nonetheless, there were many other airmen that came out of the program. Many of them went on to do amazing things in and out of the armed forces.



READ & RESPOND

1. What did the Tuskegee Airmen help to prove?

2. How did the Tuskegee Airmen earn their good reputation?

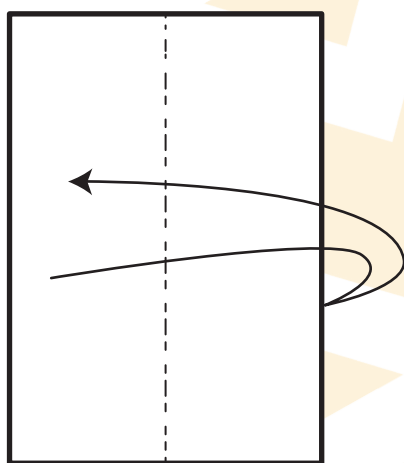
3. What was the nickname for the best Tuskegee Airmen?

4. What is the main idea of the text?



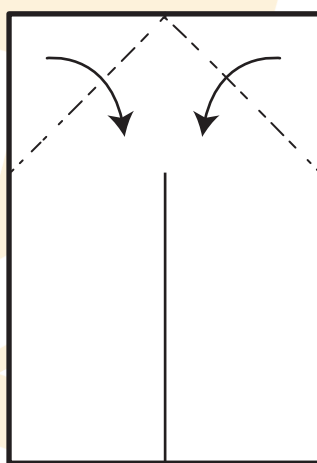
TIME TO FLY!

You are going to get a chance to create your own plane. Follow the instructions below to make a paper plane. You may even choose to make some with friends or family members and see whose plane can go the furthest!



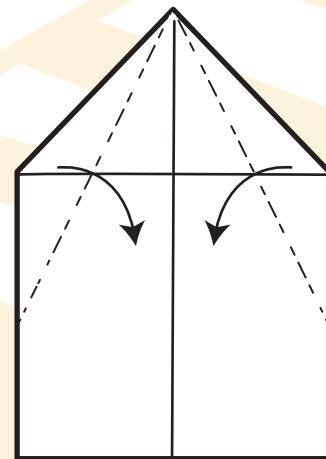
Step 1:

Fold the paper in half, then unfold the paper.



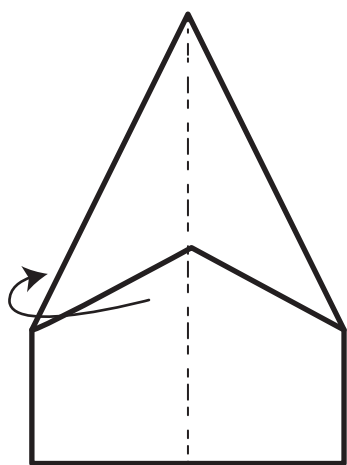
Step 2:

Fold the paper from the top corners to the centerline.



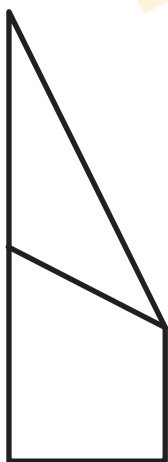
Step 3:

Fold the top edges all the way to the middle of the page.



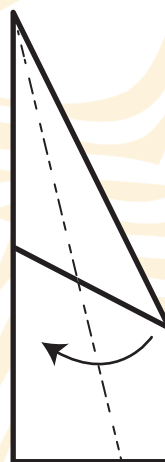
Step 4:

Fold the plane in half.

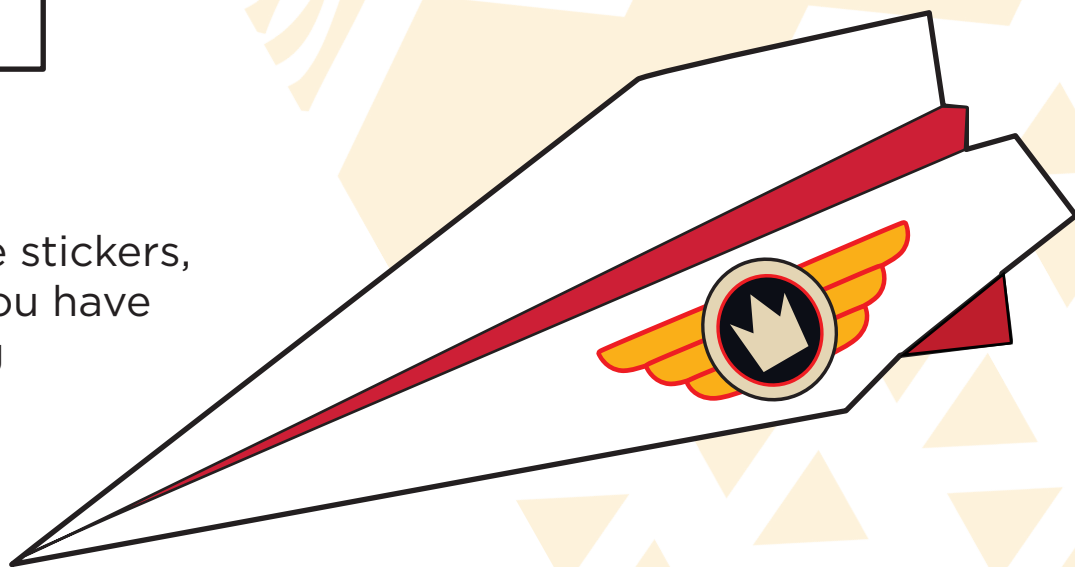


Step 5:

Fold the wings of the plane down to the bottom.

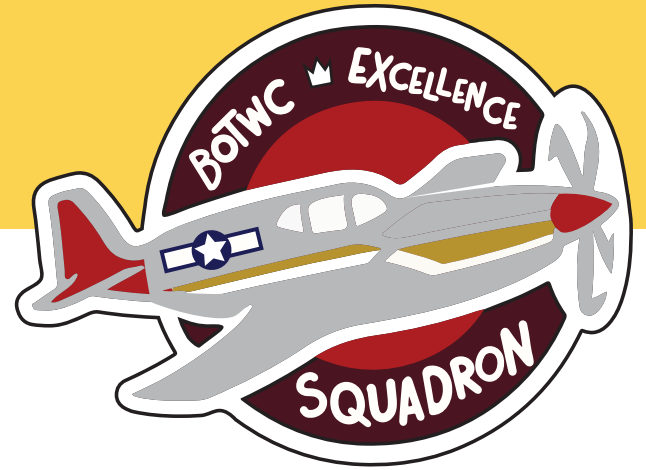


Bonus: Decorate your plane! Use stickers, crayons, markers, or whatever you have on hand! Remember that adding material adds weight, and may affect flight patterns!



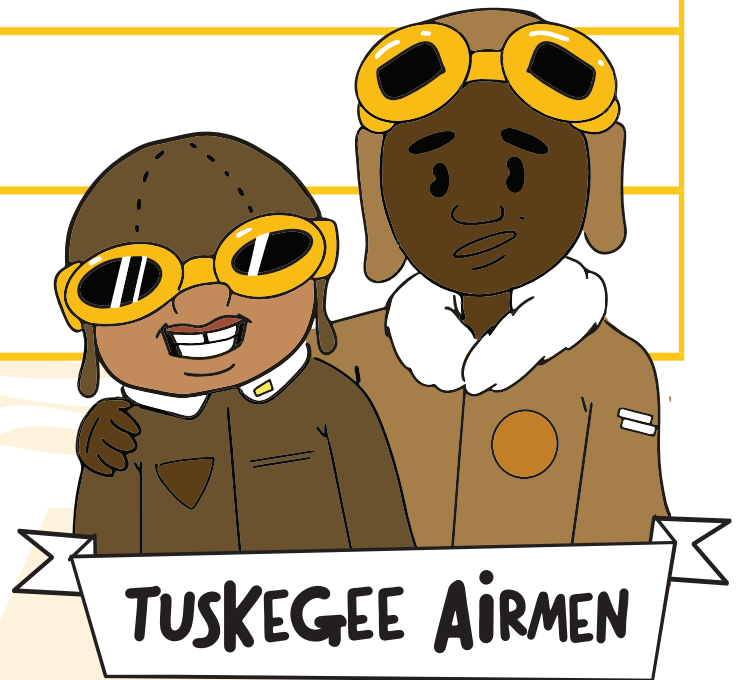


FLIGHT TESTS



Time to put your plane to the test! Pilots need to be sure their planes are fast and true. Try more than one plane if you like! Record your planes' distance in the chart below.

PLANE/FLIGHT #	HOW FAR DID THE PLANE TRAVEL?
PLANE #1, FLIGHT #1	
PLANE #__, FLIGHT #__	
PLANE #__, FLIGHT #__	
PLANE #__, FLIGHT #__	
PLANE #__, FLIGHT #__	



GLOSSARY

Integration - the end of a policy that keeps people of different races apart

Founded - the date when something began or was created

Segregation - the systematic separation of people into racial or other ethnic groups in daily life

Reputation - the way in which people think about someone or something

Nickname - a name (such as "Moose" or "Lady Bird") that is different from your real name but is what your family, friends, etc., call you when they are talking to you or about you



THE LANDING: UNDERSTANDING HOW MATH HELPS TO FLY A PLANE

1. If there are 11 planes, is there an even or odd number of planes? Use the space below to show your work and explain.

There is a lot of math that is used in flying a plane. Imagine that you are a pilot. Use the information to think about what you need to complete a trip. These are just some of the things that the Tuskegee Airmen had to think about. Not an easy job!

An important factor in flying is the weight of the plane. Every single thing that is going on the plane has to be weighed to make sure the flight can be safe. Use the equation below to think about how much weight could be added to the plane.

Maximum takeoff weight - empty weight = useful load (How much weight can be added to the plane)

2. If the maximum weight of a plane is 90 and the empty weight is 20, what is the useful load?

3. If the maximum weight of a plane is 95 and the empty weight is 17, what is the useful load?



ANSWERS: (1) There is an odd number of planes (2) 70 (3) 78

TAKE THE PLEDGE

I WILL HONOR
THE SACRIFICES OF
MY ANCESTORS.

I WILL BELIEVE
IN ME.

I WILL PURSUE
MY DREAMS.

I WILL HELP
OTHERS ALONG
THE WAY.