

**BECAUSE
OF THEM
WE CAN**

BOX

JUST FOR KIDS

BECAUSE OF THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

AGES 9-12

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. How did the Tuskegee Airmen come about?

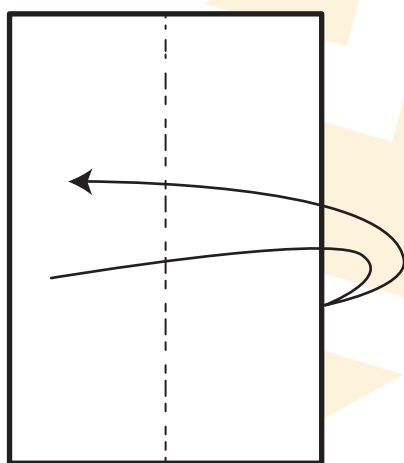
2. Why was it important that the Tuskegee Airmen had a good reputation?

3. What is the main idea of the text?



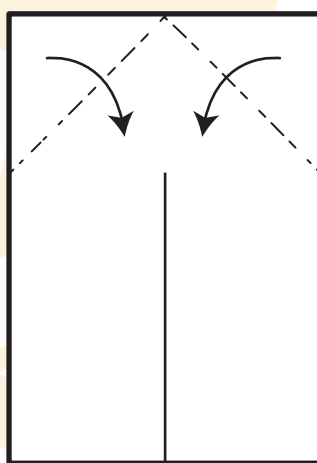
TIME TO FLY!

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!



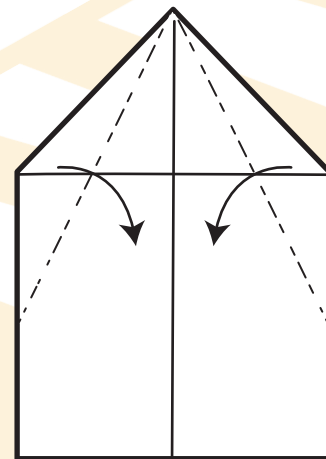
Step 1:

Fold the paper in half, then unfold the paper.



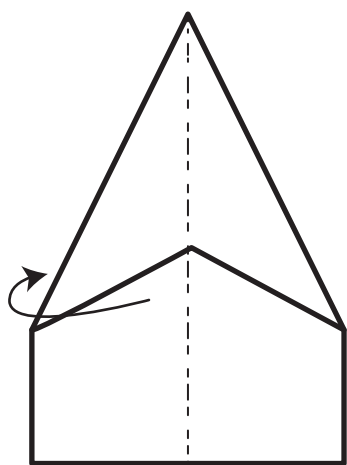
Step 2:

Fold the paper from the top corners to the centerline.



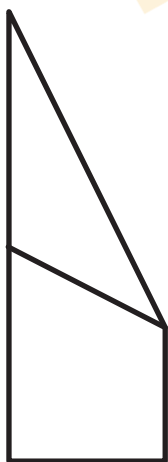
Step 3:

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



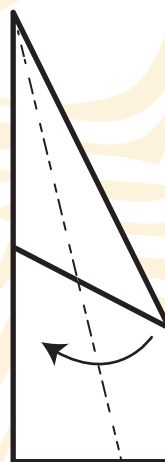
Step 4:

Fold the plane in half.

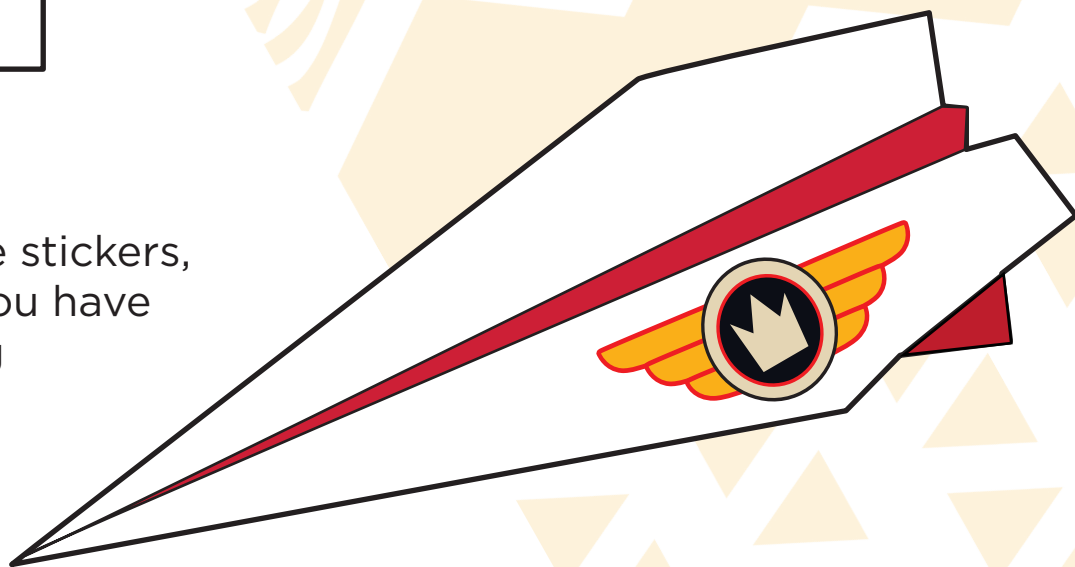


Step 5:

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

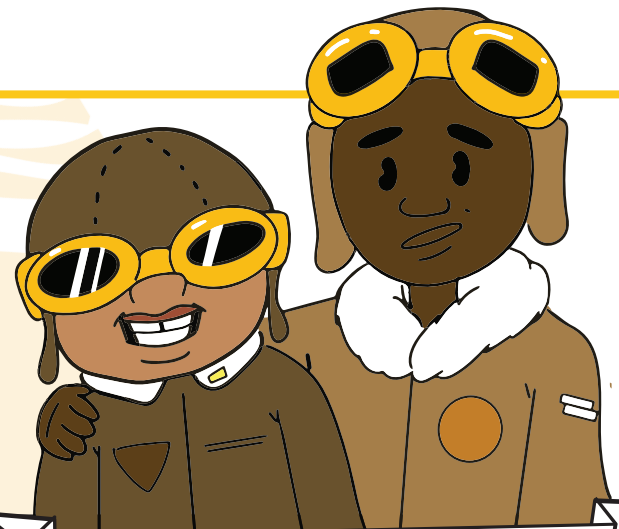


Time to put your plane to the test! Pilots need to be sure their planes are fast and true. Try more than one plane if you like! Record your planes' distance in the chart below.

PLANE/FLIGHT #	HOW FAR DID THE PLANE TRAVEL?	NOTES OR CHARACTERISTICS ABOUT HOW THE PLANE FLEW
PLANE #1, FLIGHT #1		
PLANE #__, FLIGHT #__		
PLANE #__, FLIGHT #__		
PLANE #__, FLIGHT #__		
PLANE #__, FLIGHT #__		



1941



TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

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



There is a lot of math that is involved in flying a plane. Imagine that you are a pilot. Use the information given to you 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, in addition to doing all the things needed to fight a battle. Not an easy job!

To fly a plane you definitely need to have enough gas. The equation below helps you determine how much gas is needed:

$$\text{Per-hour fuel burn} \times \text{number of hours} = \text{Gallons of fuel needed}$$

1. If you are going on a trip and you burn 13 gallons of fuel per hour, how much fuel would you need for a 4-hour trip?

Another really important factor in flying is the weight of the plane. Every single thing that is going on the plane has to be measured to make sure the flight can be safe. Use the equation to think about how much weight could be added to the plane (we call this its 'useful load.')

$$\text{Maximum takeoff weight} - \text{empty weight} = \text{useful load}$$

2. One airplane that the airmen flew in World War II was the P 51 Mustang. It weighed 12,100 pounds (that is the empty weight). If the maximum takeoff weight is 13,000 pounds what is the useful load (or the weight that can be added to the plane)?

The other important factor for flying is how much time a trip will take. Use the equation below to help determine how to figure out the time of a trip on a plane.

$$\text{Distance} / \text{speed} = \text{time}$$

3. A plane has to travel 900 miles at a speed of 450 miles per hour. How much time would the trip take?

ANSWERS: (1) 52 (2) 900 pounds (3) 2 hours

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.