



SPEED BALLOON

Student Worksheet

Build It!

You will learn about barnstorming aviators then build your own speedy aircraft!

Materials:

Balloon. Straw. Tape. 20 feet of string. Pencil. Timer.



Instructions:

Create your aircraft. Blow up your balloon. DO NOT tie the end.

So, don't let go!

Next, use tape to attach a straw to the side of the balloon.

Use a timer to record how fast your Balloon Speed Aircraft

flies down the String Runway in the Balloon Speed Plane

Trials provided below.



Trial #	Time



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Teacher Guide

Building the Speed Balloon:

Students/groups are given instructions on how to build their balloon. Students can record their times and speeds using the provided chart. After completing the trails, students can start to add to their balloons - using misc. materials - like rudders, wings, etc. to make their balloon fly better. You will need to create the String Runway. Take about 20 feet of string. Attach the string to stationary/heavy objects (chair, table leg) that will keep the balloon from hitting the floor as it flies down the String Runway. Make sure the String Runway goes in a straight line.

Please be sure to share photos or videos of your students completing the activity!

Upload here: <https://www.dropbox.com/request/TvTdwFAJFUvjk1vnC6YT>

Materials

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Background Information:

Barnstorming really began in the 1920s. The end of World War I left many trained pilots out of work but still wanting to fly airplanes. The military had a surplus of aircraft which they sold to former aviators and civilians for cheap. This eventually led to the rise of barnstorming as a popular sport in the 1920s. Barnstorming earned its name from the pilots who would land their light planes in fields and use local barns as venues for their



airshows. Paying spectators would gather to watch these pilots attempt dangerous tricks. Daredevil stunt pilots would perform maneuvers like spins, dives, loop-the-loops, and barrel rolls at dangerously low altitudes, and aerialists would attempt feats like wing walking, jumping from plane to plane, and even mid-air tennis matches. Not all barnstormers were former military men. There were several famous stunt pilots that were ordinary citizens and women. Some barnstormers traveled in troupes called flying circuses. By 1927, barnstorming became more competitive, resulting in several dangerous accidents that were highly publicized. The risks of barnstorming soon led to enforced safety regulations by the government. Barnstorming is still celebrated today as the foundation of modern airshows. Modern airshows still feature daring stunt pilots and wing walkers, though their tricks and maneuvers are much safer than the experimental flying of the 1920s era.