Paper Aeroplane Pilots
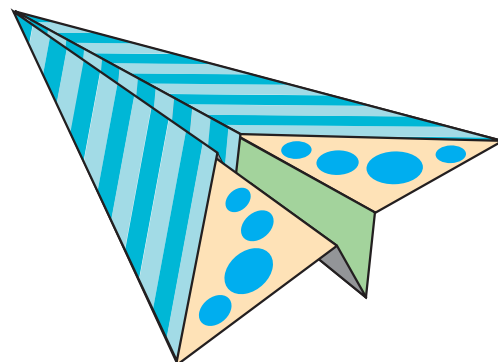
Make and fly your own paper aeroplane whilst also practising measuring, converting measurements and finding averages.

Compete against yourself or a friend to see how far you can fly your own paper aeroplane. Find your average distance and see if you can improve it.

You will need:

- Paper or card
- Tape measure
- Data Collection Sheet (one per person)
- Pens, shiny paper or stickers for decorating your aeroplane
- Chalk or an object to mark the starting line and landing spot

Need help?

See the **Jargon Buster** in the **Expert Help** section of the Oxford Owl website for help with working with averages or converting measurements.

What to do

1. Make a paper aeroplane and decorate it if you want. Give it a trial flight to see if it works.

2. Now put your plane to the test. Find a long space, like a corridor or long room, or outside if it's not windy.

3. Mark a starting line with chalk or an object. Standing on the starting line, throw your plane. Mark where it lands.

4. Use your tape measure to measure the distance your plane has travelled.

5. Record the distance on your Data Collection Sheet. Write it exactly in metres, centimetres and millimetres in one box, in centimetres and millimetres in another box and just in millimetres in the final box.

6. Repeat twice and record the distances.

7. Work out and record your best, median and mean flights. Do you have a mode flight distance? What is the range of the distances?

8. Why not print another Data Collection Sheet and see if you can improve your best, median and mode flight distances?

Paper Aeroplane Pilots (continued)

Data Collection Sheet

Are you an ace plane-building pilot? Record your results here and compete against yourself or your friends.

	1st flight	2nd flight	3rd flight
Length in metres, centimetres and millimetres			
Length in centimetres and millimetres			
Length in millimetres			

Data Analysis

Best distance:

Median distance:

Mean distance:

Mode distance (if there is one):

Range of results: