



AVIATION EDUCATION IDEAS

The General Aviation Manufacturers Association sponsors an Aviation Education Ideas Contest at the National Congress on Aviation and Space Education. The following ideas were winners from 1987-1995.

K. Susan Arnette
Bay Minette, AL
Grade Level: 1st

To reinforce aviation vocabulary for young children, arrange student's desks in the shape of an airplane. One row may be set apart as the control tower. Instead of calling students by rows to line up during the day, call the left wing, flight deck, horizontal stabilizer, etc.

Sharon Burnett
Orlando, FL
Grade Level: 2

Students use aviation to integrate geography, map and graphing skills by researching pilot's birthplaces and other biographical information. Using a map of the U.S. have students map and graph location of pilots birthplaces. This information will be used to construct Jeopardy game to assess knowledge.

Richard P. Ebersbach
Crown Point, NY
Grade Level: 7-9

A slide show of a flight over your town to be presented to a local school class could stimulate interest in aviation. Everyone would like to see their homes from the air. Shots also could be of the plane, airport, school, churches, public building and other local items of interest.

Dr. Joel Elkind
Monsey, NY
Grade Level: K-6

Students construct paper planes, and fly them, to illustrate principles of flight and aerodynamics. School-wide great paper airplane contest held annually with top winners at each grade level, award prizes.

Kathleen F. Fitzgerald

Orlando, FL

Grade Level: 6-12

Use a speaker-phone to invite guest speakers into your classroom. If you have now phone in your classroom, make arrangements to hold class in a location with a phone such as the media center. Have students write down questions ahead of time to ask the guest. Guests can be anyone involved in aviation.

"Hap" A. Galfunt

New York, NY

Grade Level: Cadets 13-18

A seminar can be held during non-school hours consisting of brief film/slides lecture or combination to be followed with question and answer session.

Dr. Carol Goodwin

Whitewakes, WI

Grade Level: Educators

Develop a sequential set of Apple IIe software programs illustrate aerospace concept (topics). Make these available, with lesson plan materials, to teachers at cost of duplication.

Carol Greene

Portland, OR

Grade Level: 5

Identifying quadrant locations on maps, work map, isolated section, sectional, using longitudinal and latitudinal lines. Project a selected map on board or butcher paper. Map can be simple for young grades using N-S-E-W or more complicated for upper elementary using NE-SE-NW-SW. Student picks small airplane with quadrant markings and "flies" it to the correct location. Can be used as a group game.

B. Ellen Hamilton

Indianapolis, IN

Grade Level: 5

Sponsor a space fair which displays experiments, children constructed models and inventions and their art work and creative writing.

Alfred Hulstrick

Schenectady, NY

Grade Level: Multi

Make your own two person aircraft. Include all extra education activities (core support ideas) plus all extra software--sound effect, visuals, etc. and hardware (mechanical and electronic instrumentation). A classroom size project.

Dolores Kazuk

Chicago, IL

Grade Level: 5

Bulletin board (language arts actively and art) "Spring into Space - Sky" children draw, design, and cut out vehicles that would propel them into the sky-space. They decorate with springs (circles cut into spirals), yarn, and markers. Then cut out clouds, name their craft and write about where they were going, what they are taking long, and what they would do and see when they arrive.

Phyllis Kempter
Albuquerque, NM
Grade Level: 6-8

Begin by building bird models (hollow bones-straws, air-sacs balloons, etc.) and have a glide contest. Then utilize glides & show similarities both concepts use. Eventually talk about using power & how that combines with the natural aerodynamics in the world around us.

Stephen I. Kunkel
Malott, WA
Grade Level: 3-5

Gather items that float or fly in nature. For Example, dandelion seeds, milkweed seeds, maple tree seeds. Discuss the properties they have and why they fly. Discuss how these properties are utilized in present day aviation.

Ruth Meyers
Ovieda, FL
Grade Level: 4-5

Put baskets of toy planes in the center of a cooperative group table. Students choose the toy plane they would like to do research on. Have students use magazines, posters, multi-media software, brochures and related banks to write research reports.

Carolyn Milstid
Bay Minette, AL
Grade Level: 1st

Develop a PTA program to spark interest and increase awareness of aviation personalities and their contribution to aviation. Students, dressed as aviation personalities, tell brief facts about their contribution and life. Involve all students by using music to enhance program. Children perform songs relating to aviation and/or flying.

Denise Slack
Oklahoma City, OK
Grade Level: 5

Mission: Leap (Learner Enrichment through Aerospace Participation) is a "hands on" activity-based program developed for grades 4-12. It combines professional lectures and activities in concurrent sessions. Students develop aerospace projects at home that are demonstrated during the sessions. Projects include egg protection capsules, junk models, and model rockets.

Stephanie Stevenson
Navaree, FL
Grade Level: 4-7

Develop a chain story using a predetermined aerospace theme and vocabulary. Classrooms with telecommunications capabilities could network nationally and internationally over the Internet. The objectives would be to extend concept knowledge creatively. Create a Linkway/Hypercard Program of the spacecraft of NASA's automated exploration system of the planets. Linkway(IBM) and Hypercard (Mac) are computer folders that can be created to develop any theme. Videodisc players and audio sounds can be utilized and controlled by the program so that learning is enhanced by multi-media. Data about the craft and the planets will be interactive with the Florida Science Videodisc.

Danny Tiberghelm

Baton Rouge, LA

Grade Level: 6

Physics of Flight: After an introduction of the physics behind flight (lift, drag, thrust, gravity, etc.) have students answer "what if" questions. Hypothesizing the answers will encourage student to learn more about how they occur.

Michele R. Walker

Florence, AL

Grade Level: Multi

Aviation Matchup (like Concentration), take a large piece of poster board. Make sixteen pockets. Make eight cards with matching definition. Randomly place the cards in pockets. Have students take turns matching word with definition. Teams can be set up for competition. **Variation:** picture and name.

Amy C. Watson

Washington, DC

Grade Level: Multi

Create a game like "Trivial Pursuit" around aviation trivia. Various categories might include aviation law, navigation, meteorology, geography/topography, crisis management, ethics, engineering, history, technology, licensing, problems, military vs. commercial vs. general aviation, etc. The difficulty of the questions could be changed for different levels.

Peter Webber

Fort Worth, TX

Grade Level: 9-12

Essay competition, 500 word or less on general aviation subject such as local airports's importance to the community, use of agricultural aviation, etc. Run through aerospace education/AFJROTC high school programs.