



MERC PAPER AIRPLANE



Merc has placed an advertisement in the TTA News for a test pilot for his new aircraft design:

***WANTED:** A test pilot who can follow directions to make my aircraft and who can take it on test flights!*

Invite your child to answer that ad. Will you and your child help Merc test his new plane?

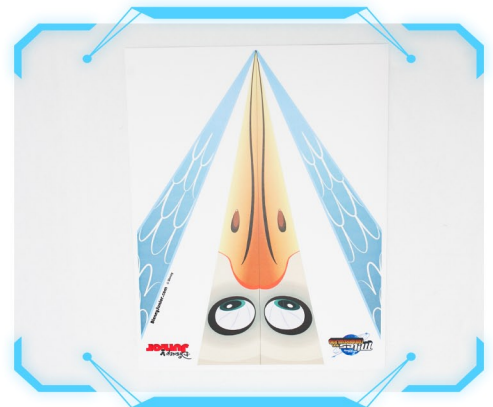
WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Regular copy paper



HOW TO MAKE IT

1. Print the Merc paper airplane on regular copy paper.
2. Position the paper in front of you, blank side up. Merc's eyes (on the underside of the paper) should be at the bottom.



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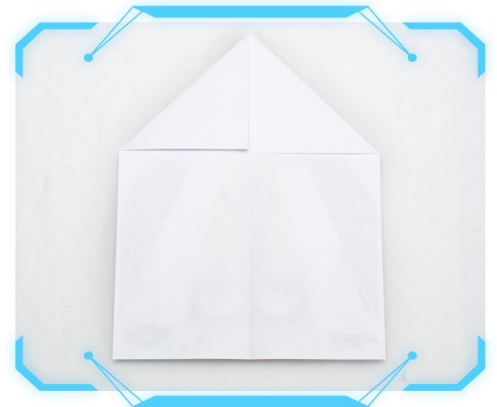
3. Fold the paper in half vertically inward.



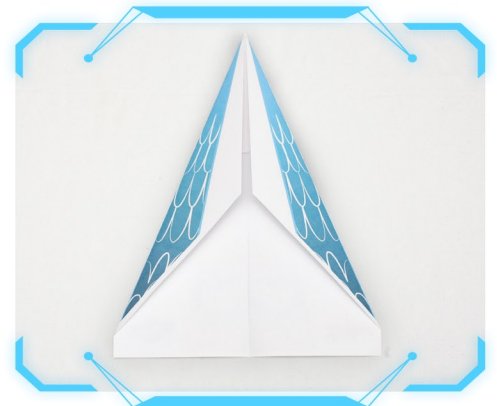
4. Unfold the paper.



5. Fold the top left and top right corners towards the center vertical line, forming a triangular peak.



6. Fold the top left and right edges towards the center vertical line. Part of Merc's wings should now be visible.

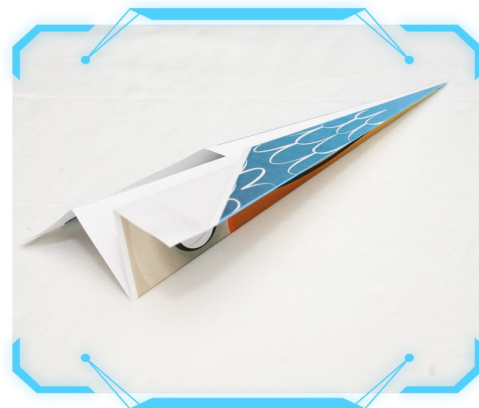


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7. Fold the paper in half vertically inward.



8. Fold the wings down to meet the bottom edges of the plane's body.



9. Your Merc paper airplane is now ready for its first flight!
This plane is great for achieving distance so let it soar!



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10. Help your child check for thrust and lift.

To explore thrust (the reaction force that keeps the plane moving forward):

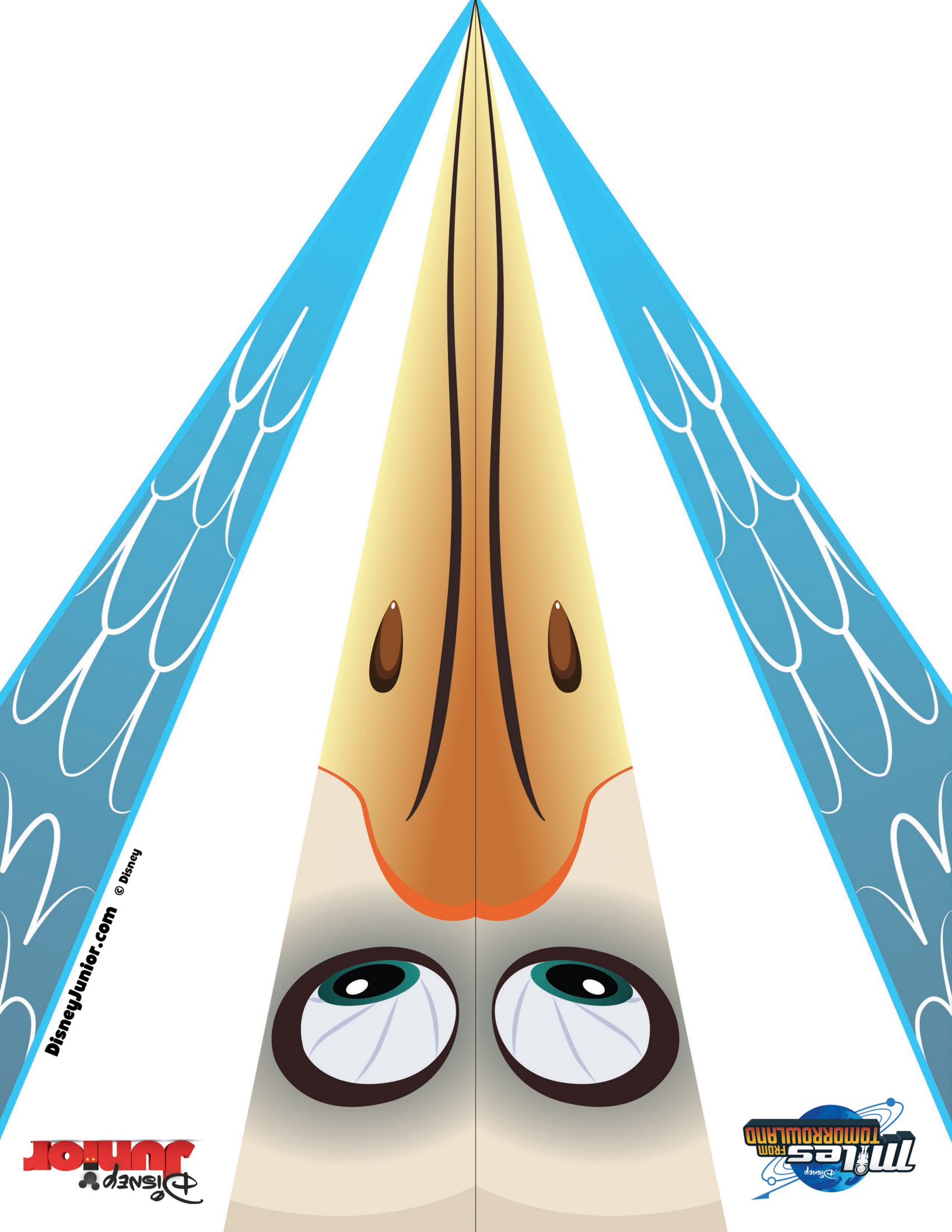
- Launch the plane several times and ask your child to notice if it keeps moving forward until gently gliding to the ground. If it does, then the plane shows adequate thrust.

To explore lift:

- Observe several launches that are parallel to the ground or that lift slightly upward and ask if the plane tends to lift upward or downward. If it glides upward, you have adequate lift.

Want to do more?

- Print out two planes. Fold one according to the instructions and fold one with the final folds of the wings facing upward. Test the two designs and determine which flies the best.



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