

# Here's one I prepared earlier

The teaching day is full of times when you have to think and act quickly – the assembly is cancelled, the school coach has broken down... Suddenly, you have a class that you haven't prepared for. At times like these, you need a bank of effortless, educational activities that will keep children engaged

By Zoe Lea

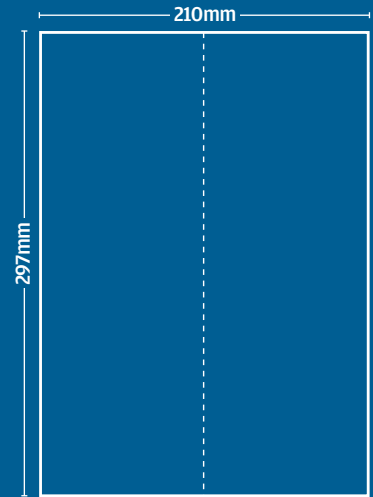
**4 Place-value scramble**  
Write four single-digit numbers on the board. For Key Stage 1, use fewer numbers. Invite the children to rearrange the digits to produce a variety of set results: the lowest and highest possible number; a number with the largest digit in the tens place; a number with the smallest digit in the hundreds place, and so on. At the end, write all suggested outcomes on the board and, as a class, put the results in order.

**Work of art**  
Draw a shape on the board and invite your pupils to develop the picture by adding another small shape or line, extending the drawing, or changing it into another object. Ask the children to instruct a classmate to add to the drawing. Base the picture on a class topic, to promote associated language, or keep it silent, letting pupils develop ideas individually.

**Verb world**  
Pick a verb and explain to the class that you are going to create a new planet around it. Collect ideas for the planet by asking the children a variety of questions: What would it be like on the planet? Who would live there? How do people treat each other? The planet can be presented in a variety of ways (by creating maps, posters, stories and laws, for example) depending on resources and time.

**Freeze frame**  
This works better with Key Stage 2 or higher infants.  
Split the class into small groups and choose a story that everyone is familiar with, such as a fairy tale. Challenge the children to work as a team to select an event in the story. Using their bodies, they have to create a tableau of the event they have chosen, as if the story had been captured on camera. The rest of the class must guess what part of the story the silent picture is, and point out who the characters are. This could be developed to portray more abstract themes, such as emotions or dreams. It could also be expanded for higher juniors by letting the members of the tableau voice their inner thoughts when asked.

**? What is it?**  
Display a number of items to the children – these could be random items from the classroom, or focused on a particular subject or topic. Explain that the items were found in an archaeological dig of a lost city, and although they may look like everyday objects, they were actually used for something else in the lost city. Split the class into small groups and give them an item each. Challenge them to think about unusual uses for the items, and who might have used them. Children in upper Key Stage 1 and 2 could then create a 'lost' poster for the item, describing the object, its uses and who had lost it.



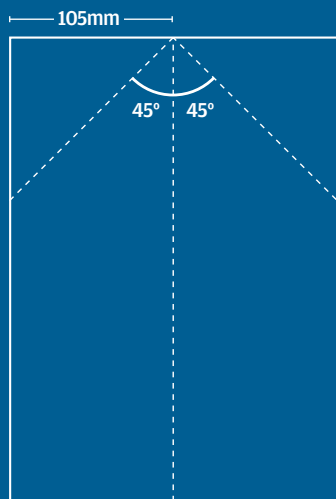
**Fig. 1** Fold an A4 sheet of paper in half and make a firm crease along the middle. Reopen the paper.

## Perfect plane

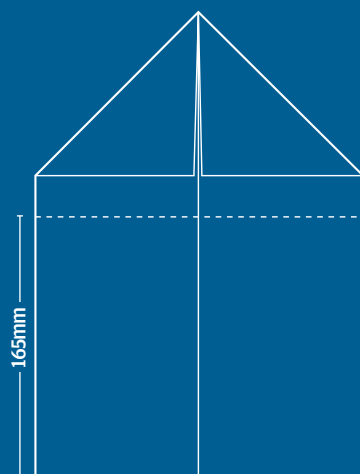
Working in small groups with paper and crayons, children must try to create the perfect paper aeroplane. Each team makes and decorates their plane, and presents it to the rest of the class, describing its attributes.

Explore concepts such as speed, flight path and duration as part of a class discussion, estimating the performance of each design. The children can time their test flights with a stopwatch, giving marks for each category.

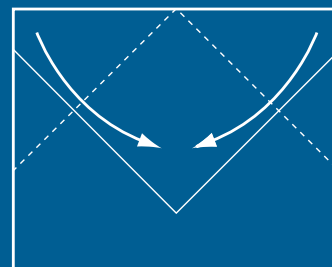
Ask each group for instructions, with diagrams, on how their plane is made, or hand round instructions for pupils to make our plane (right). This tests their comprehension skills.



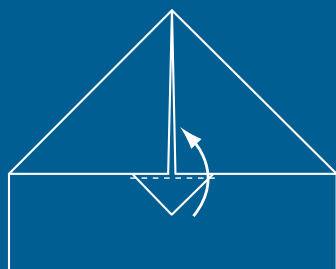
**Fig. 2** Fold the top left corner down until it meets the centre line and make a firm crease. Repeat with the top right corner.



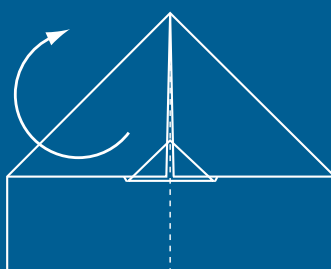
**Fig. 3** Score a horizontal line 165mm from the bottom of the paper.



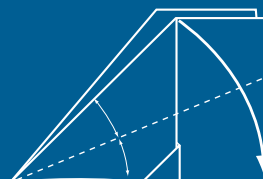
**Fig. 4** Fold the triangular tip down at the score line, then fold the new left and right top corners in the direction of the arrows to the middle, and make creases.



**Fig. 5** Fold the exposed triangular flap up in the direction of the arrow and make a crease.

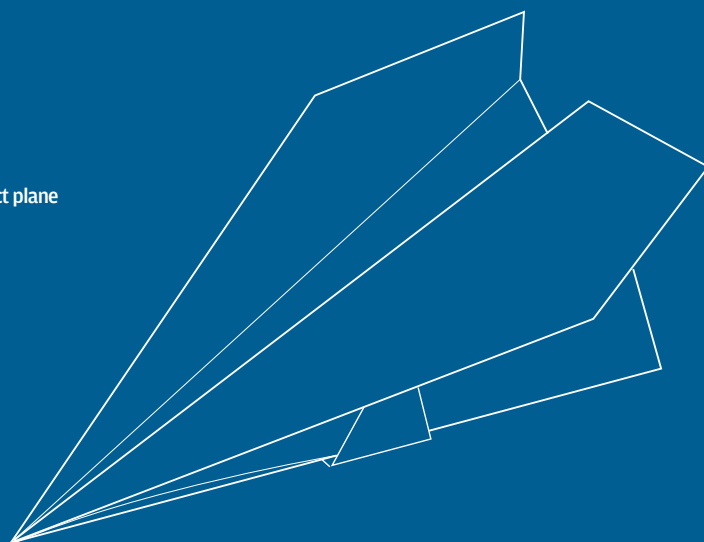


**Fig. 6** Fold both sides of the plane down at the centre crease so that the small triangular flap remains on the outside.



**Fig. 7** Create a wing by folding one side down in the direction of the arrow until the diagonal edge lines up with the bottom edge, then make a crease. Repeat the process on the other side to make the second wing.

**Fig. 8** Your perfect plane is now ready to fly!



TITLE

Aeroplane

MATERIALS

Paper

DIMENSIONS

297 x 210mm

DESIGN

Allan Wise