

# Pilot

Imagine you are sitting in the cockpit of a Boeing 747 jet. There are 392 passengers on board ready to take off from Los Angeles to Hong Kong. The destination is 7,233 miles away across the Pacific Ocean. The nonstop flight takes twelve and a half hours. You have co-pilots and relief pilots to help but you are the captain in charge. Ready for take-off?

*(Feel free to use the back of this sheet for longer answers)*



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## What Do Pilots Do?

If that sounds like a lot of responsibility it's because it is. Airline pilots must get jets that are worth millions of dollars, hundreds of people, and lots of cargo to their intended destinations. Safety is the goal of every flight. Pilots must file a flight plan, check the weather, and conduct safety checks each time they take-off. All it takes is one look inside a cockpit and you'll understand why it takes a college degree and lots of flight training to prepare for this career. It's complicated! But it is also a thrilling way to see the world. The demand for new pilots is expected to increase over the next decade or so as many experienced pilots will reach retirement age.

## CHALLENGE #1: *If you had this career...*

What kind of training would you need?

Where could you find a job?

How much money could you earn?

Who would you help and how would you make a difference?

Why would (or wouldn't) you like doing a job like this?

## CHALLENGE #2: *Think Tank*



Go online to <https://foldnfly.com> and pick three different types of paper airplanes. Follow the instructions to make them.

Use the back side of this page to create a chart and add one row for each airplane design that you choose. Add three columns, one each for Time, Distance, and Accuracy.

Conduct at least three test flights for each airplane. Use your chart to compare the performance of each design using this criteria:

- How many seconds did the plane stay aloft?
- How far did the plane travel?
- How well did the plane maintain a straight path from beginning to end?

What do the results tell you about the aerodynamics of the winning airplane design?