

# AOPA'S HIGH SCHOOL

## AVIATION STEM CURRICULUM

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Aviation Initiative, AOPA

# AOPA HIGH SCHOOL AVIATION INITIATIVE

Increase student awareness of and engagement in career opportunities in aviation and aerospace.

- 1. High School Aviation STEM Curriculum**
- 2. Annual High School Aviation STEM Symposium**
- 3. High School Flight Training Scholarship Program**



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# HIGH SCHOOL AVIATION STEM CURRICULUM

- 2 career pathways – Pilot, UAS
- Offering four years of curriculum – schools can decide how many courses to implement
- To be used as a credit-bearing course during the school day
- Prepare students for FAA written tests
  - Private pilot
  - Part 107 remote pilot
- Thanks to donations to the AOPA Foundation, this curriculum is **offered at no charge** to high schools.



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# WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Lesson plans
- Presentations
- Student activities
- Student projects
- Student assessments
- Teacher notes
- Teaching aids

GRADE 9  
UNIT 2  
SECTION D  
LESSON 1

LAUNCHING INTO AVIATION  
TAKING FLIGHT—EARLY AVIATION INNOVATIONS  
POWERED, CONTROLLED FLIGHT

1.0  
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### The "Wright" Approach

Session Time: Two, 50-minute sessions

DESIRED RESULTS

ESSENTIAL UNDERSTANDINGS

Appreciate the rich, global history of aviation/aerospace and the historical factors that necessitated rapid industry development and expansion. (EU1)

Understand the importance of professionalism, ethics, and dedication as they relate to all aviation/aerospace operations. (EU4)

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

1. What about the Wrights' methods made them successful where others had failed?
2. What questions did the Wrights have to answer to accomplish sustained, controlled flight?
3. How important were these developments in the achievement of powered, controlled flight?

LEARNING GOALS

Students Will Know	Students Will Be Able To
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• That testing models is a way to prove theory</li><li>• The challenges the Wright brothers had to overcome to make powered, controlled flight a reality</li><li>• Engineering practices the Wright brothers used to overcome the challenges of powered, controlled flight</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Describe how aircraft today are still designed using the same principles the Wright brothers used. (DOK-L2)</li><li>• Explain ways in which the Wright Brothers solved for the challenges of controlled flight. (DOK-L4)</li></ul>

ASSESSMENT EVIDENCE

Warm-up  
Students list and discuss what they know about controlled flight.

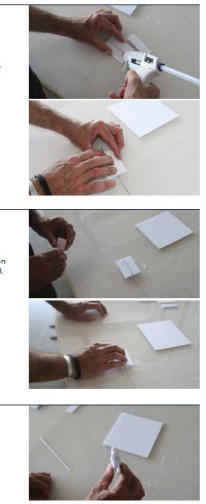
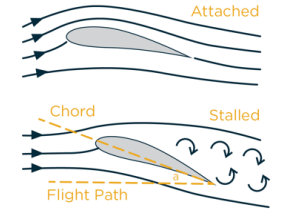
Formative Assessment  
Students respond to questions about a video that explains how the Wright brothers improved upon what was already known about flight in order to achieve controlled flight.

Summative Assessment  
Students draw a diagram showing how the Wright brothers solved important aircraft control challenges.

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## HOW DOES ANGLE OF ATTACK AFFECT LIFT?

- Lift is directly affected by angle of attack
  - As the angle of attack increases, so too does the lift produced by the airfoil
  - This is true until the critical angle of attack is reached



UNIT 2 | SECTION D | LESSON 1 | BUILD AND TEST A WIND TUNNEL | STUDENT ACTIVITY

3 AIRFOIL MOUNT  
Build the two side structures for the airfoil mount.

Put one of the pieces of wire between two of the 1" x 3" pieces of foam. You are not gluing the wire to the pieces; it is just providing a spacer. You will pull the wire out once the side structure is assembled. Apply hot glue to the inside of both foam pieces and center another 1" x 3" piece of foam on top. Press down and let the glue cool.

4 AIRFOIL MOUNT  
Build the side structures for the airfoil mount.

Flip the side structure over and repeat the process on the other side. Ensure the hot glue is allowed to cool.



5 AIRFOIL MOUNT  
Build the side structures for the airfoil mount.

Once all four pieces are glued together, pull the wire out.

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# AOPA CURRICULUM PATHWAYS

		GRADE 9		GRADE 10		GRADE 11		GRADE 12	
		SEMESTER 1	SEMESTER 2	SEMESTER 1	SEMESTER 2	SEMESTER 1	SEMESTER 2	SEMESTER 1	SEMESTER 2
	<b>PILOT</b>	LAUNCHING INTO AVIATION	EXPLORING AVIATION & AEROSPACE	INTRODUCTION TO FLIGHT	AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS	PRIVATE PILOT FUNDAMENTALS I	PRIVATE PILOT FUNDAMENTALS II	AVIATION SAFETY	PILOT CAPSTONE
	<b>UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS</b>	LAUNCHING INTO AVIATION	EXPLORING AVIATION & AEROSPACE	INTRODUCTION TO FLIGHT	AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS	UAS OPERATIONS I	UAS OPERATIONS II	UAS DESIGN & APPLICATIONS	UAS CAPSTONE



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# AOPA CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
GRADE 9	DEVELOP COURSES	FIELD TEST	IMPLEMENT			
GRADE 10		DEVELOP COURSES	FIELD TEST	IMPLEMENT		
GRADE 11			DEVELOP COURSES	FIELD TEST	IMPLEMENT	
GRADE 12				DEVELOP COURSES	FIELD TEST	IMPLEMENT

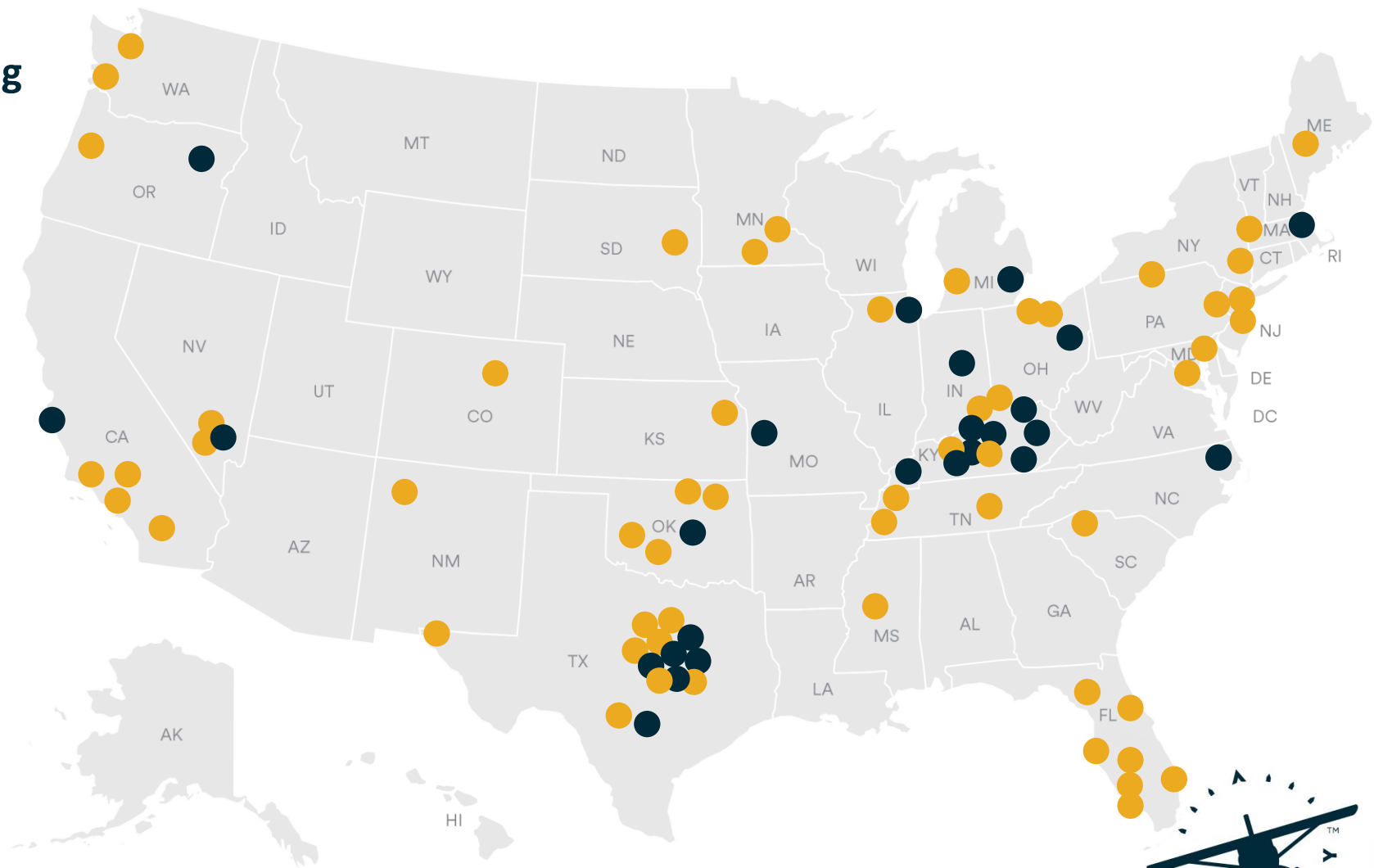


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# GRADES 9 AND 10 PARTICIPATION, 2018-19

80 schools using ninth grade curriculum

- = GRADE 9 PARTICIPATION 2018-19
- = GRADE 10 PARTICIPATION 2018-19



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# AOPA HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM METRICS

## 2018-19 school year

- First year available
- 80 high schools
- 26 states
- 2,223 students
- 25% females
- 52% students in underrepresented groups

## 2019-20 school year

- 93 high schools on board for 2019-20 school year (48 more have started process)
- 31 new aviation programs
- 32 states
- Deadline is February 28, 2019



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## GRADE 9 CURRICULUM

- Foundation for exploration of flying and unmanned aircraft systems
- Incorporate engineering practices throughout ninth grade
- Engages students with hands-on activities and projects
- Career planning embedded throughout four years

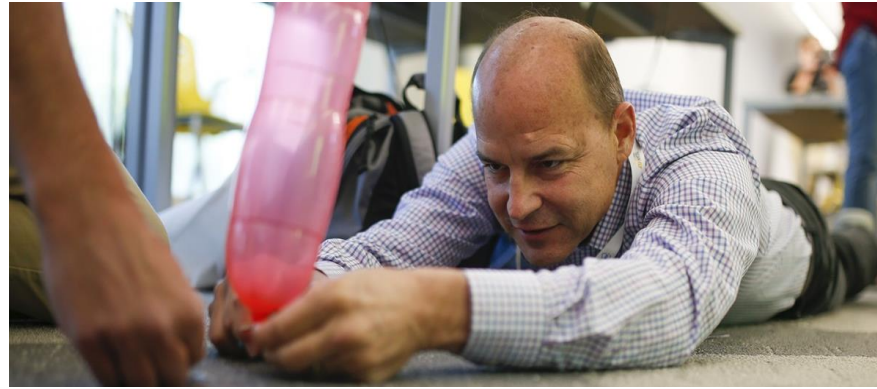


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## GRADE 9 HIGHLIGHTS



TISSUE PAPER  
HOT AIR  
BALLOONS



HEAVY BALLOON ROCKET  
LAUNCH



CARDBOARD  
WIND TUNNELS AND AIR  
FOILS



INNOVATION CHALLENGE



CAREER  
PLANNING  
PROJECT




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# GRADE 9 "ACCIDENT CASE STUDY" LESSON

GRADE 9  
UNIT 6  
SECTION B  
LESSON 2

EXPLORING AVIATION AND AEROSPACE  
AVIATION SAFETY AND OVERSIGHT  
ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION



v1.0  
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## Accident Case Study

🕒 **Session Time:** Three, 50-minute sessions

DESIRED RESULTS

**ESSENTIAL UNDERSTANDINGS**

Understand the operational differences between general, commercial, and military aviation as well as how these differences influence the modern aviation/aerospace industry. (EU2)

Understand the importance of professionalism, ethics, and dedication as they related to all aviation/aerospace operations. (EU4)

Develop an uncompromising safety mindset, understanding that growth and development in the aviation/aerospace industry must always be accompanied by responsive safety initiatives. (EU6)

**ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS**

- Can we really know what went wrong in an aviation accident?
- Why investigate aircraft accidents?

**LEARNING GOALS**

Students Will Know	Students Will Be Able To
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to apply the aircraft accident investigation process to actual aircraft accidents</li> <li>• Various limitations or challenges to conducting an effective investigation of this accident</li> <li>• Kinds of safety recommendations might result from accident investigations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the role of the NTSB during an aircraft accident investigation. (DOK-L2)</li> <li>• List and describe the general elements related to the aircraft accident investigation process. (DOK-L2)</li> <li>• Formulate various safety recommendations that might result from accident case studies. (DOK-L3)</li> </ul>

ASSESSMENT EVIDENCE

**Warm-up**  
Students review the parts and functions of an NTSB "Go Team," along with the general investigative process, in order to support the simulated aircraft accident investigation within this lesson.

**Formative Assessment**  
Students discuss if aircraft accident investigation will always result in knowing what caused the accident.

UNIT 6.B | Lesson 2 | Accident Case Study
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EXPLORING AVIATION AND AEROSPACE - Grade 9

UNIT 6 | SECTION B | LESSON 2 | STUDENT ACTIVITY 1

EXPLORING AVIATION AND AEROSPACE - 9

## ACCIDENT CASE STUDY


COLGAN AIR FLIGHT 3407

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Class \_\_\_\_\_

Using the information contained in your accident-case study packet and a reanimation video, your "Go Team" will evaluate the crash of Colgan Air Flight 3407. Each team will present its "findings" and "recommendations" upon completing the study.

STEP 1  
Each member of your team will choose one element of the "Go Team." If you have less than seven members, some students will need to accept more than one "Go Team" responsibility.

"GO TEAM" RESPONSIBILITY	TEAM MEMBER ASSIGNED
<p><b>OPERATIONS</b> Collect history of the accident flight and crewmembers' duties for as many days before the crash as appears relevant.</p>	
<p><b>STRUCTURES</b> Document the airframe wreckage and the accident scene.</p>	
<p><b>POWERPLANTS</b> Examine engines (and propellers) and engine accessories.</p>	
<p><b>SYSTEMS</b> Study components of the plane's hydraulic, electrical, pneumatic and associated systems, together.</p>	
<p><b>AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL</b> Reconstruct the ATIS radar data.</p>	
<p><b>WEATHER</b> Gather all pertinent weather data.</p>	
<p><b>HUMAN PERFORMANCE</b> Study crew performance involved in human factors, training.</p>	



UNIT 6 | SECTION B | LESSON 2 | PRESENTATION

# ACCIDENT CASE STUDY

UNIT 6 | SECTION B | LESSON 2 | STUDENT ACTIVITY 2


EXPLORING AVIATION AND AEROSPACE - 9

## ACCIDENT CASE STUDY

COLGAN AIR FLIGHT 3407

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Class \_\_\_\_\_

Date February 12, 2009  
Time 10:21 am  
Airline Colgan Air, operating as Continental Connection Flight 3407  
Aircraft Bombardier DHC-8-400  
Location Instrument approach to Buffalo Niagara International Airport, New York  
Severity Crashed into a residence in Clarence Center, New York, about 5 nautical miles northeast of the airport. The two pilots, two flight attendants and 45 passengers aboard the airplane died; one person on the ground died, and the airplane was destroyed by impact and fire.



UNIT 6 | SECTION B | LESSON 2 | TEACHER NOTES

EXPLORING AVIATION AND AEROSPACE - 9

## ACCIDENT CASE STUDY

COLGAN AIR FLIGHT 3407

**TEACHER BACKGROUND**

Use this background to guide students during their accident case activity.

**Factors that may have contributed to the accident**

- Pilot failure to monitor flight instruments properly
- Pilot's inappropriate response to the activation of the stick shaker, indicating that the airplane was stalling from too slow of an airspeed
- Lack of training involving the stick shaker and how to respond to low airspeed cues
- Icing conditions that caused the airplane to stall at a higher than normal airspeed
- Pilots being distracted by conversation not pertinent to the flight, lack of pilot professionalism
- Pilot fatigue (due to commuting from Seattle), late-night flying and possible illness

**Limitations or challenges to conducting an effective investigation of this accident**


- Location is a rural area of residential home
- Severity of the wreckage and post-crash fire

**Other parties that might be brought into this investigation**

- Colgan Air
- Bombardier
- Engine, propeller manufacturers
- Air traffic controllers
- Other system and component manufacturers - avionics, deicing systems
- Airline pilot union

**Safety recommendations that might result from this investigation**

- Improved training on proper aircraft control during low-speed flight and proper monitoring of flight instruments
- Improved training on stick pusher operations and pilot response
- Improved training and adherence to sterile cockpit rules
- Improved leadership training for captains, including professional standards and codes of conduct
- Airline to address fatigue risks brought about by commuting, illness and late flights



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## GRADE 10 CURRICULUM

- Similar to the first half of ground school
- Teaches how an airplane is designed and constructed, how an airplane flies (four forces), and aircraft controls
- Simulation activities embedded
- Schools can use 10th grade courses without using 9th grade courses




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# GRADE 10 "VECTORS OF FLIGHT" LESSON

GRADE 10  
UNIT 4  
SECTION A  
LESSON 3

INTRODUCTION TO FLIGHT  
FORCES OF FLIGHT  
THE AIRCRAFT IN MOTION



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## Vectors of Flight

🕒 **Session Time:** One, 50-minute session

DESIRED RESULTS

**ESSENTIAL UNDERSTANDINGS**

The principles of aerodynamics allow an aircraft to fly, yet those same principles limit its ultimate performance and capabilities. (EU2)

Safe and efficient aviation operations require that pilots use math, science, and technology. (EU4)

A deep understanding of how an aircraft operates enables a pilot to fly the aircraft to its maximum capabilities in both normal and abnormal situations. (EU5)

**ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS**

1. Are the forces acting on an airplane really perpendicular to one another?

**LEARNING GOALS**

<p><b>Students Will Know</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What a vector is and how it relates to the forces of flight</li> <li>That an airplane's flight path may not be the same direction in which its nose is pointed.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Students Will Be Able To</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Calculate thrust force vectors for airplanes performing slow flight and climbs. (DOK-L1)</li> <li>Apply the concepts of thrust analysis to explain how an aerobatic airplane creates lift during a knife-edge pass. (DOK-L4)</li> <li>Summarize how the vertical component of thrust contributes to lift. (DOK-L2)</li> </ul>
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ASSESSMENT EVIDENCE

**Warm-up**  
Students watch a video of an aerobatic airplane performing a knife-edge pass and will then draw a diagram of the airplane with arrows depicting the four forces of flight.

**Formative Assessment**  
Students will graph flight vectors, then measure the components of the vectors in each direction.

**Summative Assessment**  
Students will write a paragraph that explains to an audience that is not familiar with aviation how the vertical component of thrust contributes to lift.


Unit 4.A | Lesson 3 | Vectors of Flight

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Introduction to Flight - GRADE 10

UNIT 4 | SECTION A | LESSON 3 | STUDENT ACTIVITY

INTRODUCTION TO FLIGHT - 10



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## VECTORS OF FLIGHT

FLIGHT VECTOR ANALYSIS

Name \_\_\_\_\_

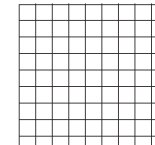
Class \_\_\_\_\_

*In this activity you will graph flight vectors, then measure the components of the vector in each direction.*

**MANEUVER 1 - SLOW FLIGHT**

You will start with the thrust vector of an aircraft in slow flight.

1. On the graph paper, use the ruler edge of a protractor to measure the horizontal distance covered by 15 blocks. Each block will represent 10 pounds of thrust.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Length
2. From the intersection of two grid lines, draw a line at a 10 degree angle up and to the right, the same length as the distance covered by the 15 units you just measured. Ensure the center of your protractor is at the intersection of the two grid lines and zero degrees is lined up with the horizontal grid line.
3. The line you just drew is your thrust line in slow flight, representing 150 lbs of thrust.
4. From the high end of your thrust vector, draw a vertical line down until you can draw a horizontal line across that intersects the starting point of your vector, thus creating a right triangle.
5. Count the number of blocks on your horizontal line and convert this number to pounds (Hint: each block represents 10 pounds of thrust). This is your horizontal component of thrust, which is pulling your aircraft forward.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Pounds
6. Count the number of blocks in y of thrust, which is pulling your a  
\_\_\_\_\_ Pounds




INTRODUCTION TO FLIGHT - 10

UNIT 4 | SECTION A | LESSON 3 | PRESENTATION



UNIT 4 | SECTION A | LESSON 3 | TEACHER NOTES

INTRODUCTION TO FLIGHT - 10



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## VECTORS OF FLIGHT

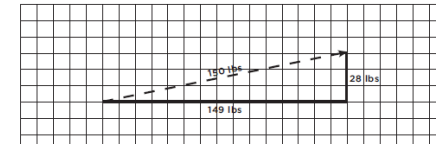
FLIGHT VECTOR ANALYSIS

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4. From the high end of your thrust vector, draw a vertical line down until you can draw a horizontal line across that intersects the starting point of your vector, thus creating a right triangle.
5. Count the number of blocks on your horizontal line and convert this number to pounds (Hint: each block represents 10 pounds of thrust). This is your horizontal component of thrust, which is pulling your aircraft forward.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Pounds
6. Count the number of blocks in your vertical line and convert to pounds. This is your vertical component of thrust, which is pulling your aircraft up, serving as a portion of your lift.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Pounds





# HOW CAN HIGH SCHOOLS USE THE AOPA CURRICULUM?

- Schools apply to use the curriculum on AOPA's website each year, deadline is February 28, 2019 for the 2019-20 school year.
- Teachers are required to attend 3-day professional development workshop – Frederick, MD (or can participate virtually).
- The course(s) is used as a full year, credit-bearing course, and submit data.
- Share AOPA high school curriculum website for more information:  
<https://youcanfly.aopa.org/high-school/high-school-curriculum>
- Contact [hs@aopa.org](mailto:hs@aopa.org) for more information.



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# HIGH SCHOOL AVIATION STEM



## WHEN & WHERE?

**NOV. 10-12, 2019**

United Airlines Flight  
Training Center  
7500 E. 35th Ave. | **Denver, CO 80238**

**AND**

Doubletree by Hilton Denver  
3203 Quebec St. | **Denver, CO 80207**



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# HIGH SCHOOL AVIATION STEM SYMPOSIUM

- For high school educators and administrators to learn best practices from each other in aviation education.
- Build connections to industry and higher education
- Learning, networking, collaborating, sharing, building
- Teachers walk away with ideas they can use.



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## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2018 SYMPOSIUM

- **Dynamic keynote speakers**



**Houston Mills**  
*UPS*



**Gwynne Shotwell** *SpaceX*

- **UPS tours**
- **Expanded exhibit area**
- **Wide variety of breakout sessions**
- **Experts on panels**
- **Emphasis on diversity throughout the event**
- **Networking with likeminded, passionate educators**



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# 2019 AOPA HIGH SCHOOL FLIGHT TRAINING SCHOLARSHIP

Thanks to the generosity of the **Ray Foundation**, **80 exceptional high school students and 20 teachers** will be awarded scholarships of **up to \$10,000 each** to pursue their primary pilot certificate.

- High school students must be 15 to 18 years old.
- Must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.
- Must be a current member of AOPA (can include free membership)
- Teachers must currently be instructing students or providing curriculum to teachers for students in preparation for a future in aviation.
- Check [www.AOPA.org/Scholarships](http://www.AOPA.org/Scholarships) for more information.

**Deadline April 2, 2019 11:59 pm EDT**



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# HOW CAN AABI SCHOOLS AND MEMBERS BE INVOLVED?

- Share AOPA curriculum and high school symposium with local high schools
- Invite local high schools using AOPA curriculum to visit campus/airport
- Help support teachers' understanding of aviation
- Provide dual credit for AOPA courses
- Other ways?



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