

# Up in the Air

## Activity Summary

This is an outline of activities that could be used together as an introduction to a unit on flying or as prompting activities to encourage discussion.

Class time: 30 minutes per activity

Grade level: K- grade 5

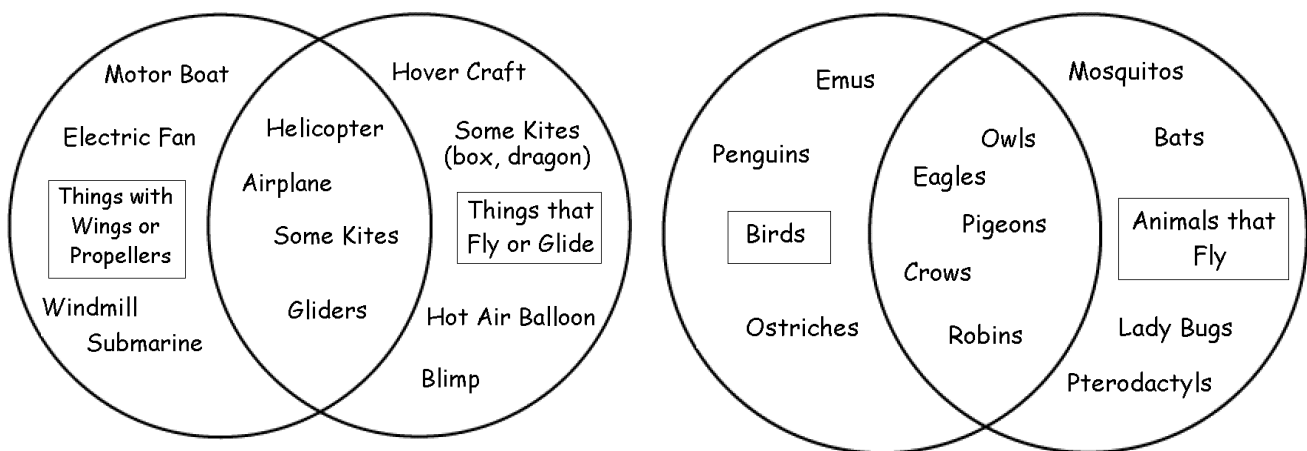
## Activities

Venn Diagrams:

Have students brainstorm a list of things that fly or glide, recording ideas on post-its or index cards. For older students, divide them into small groups and direct the groups to sort the items in some way. For younger students, sort as a whole group and provide categories for them. Examples of sorting categories might include animals, plants, or machine.

Discuss the features of each *thing* that help it fly. Some examples: birds have wings and powerful chest muscles to flap them; dandelion seeds have parachute-like tufts of fuzz; insects have lightweight bodies and fast-moving wings; helicopters have long spinning blades. Which things fly using their own power and which ones need wind to glide?

Use the lists to make a Venn diagram. Here are some examples:



### Collage:

Draw or cut out pictures of things that fly. Assemble pictures into a collage or put each picture on its own page and write its name.

### Inventions:

Each student makes up a new 'thing that flies'. Remind them to think about the features that help things fly (wings, canopies, blades, etc.) and use one or more of these in their design. Draw a picture of the invention or write a paragraph explaining what it looks like and how it flies. Give the invention a name. Assemble all the inventions into a book.