

Mars Helicopters – Student Worksheet

Ingenuity made the first powered flight on another planet on April 19, 2021. In this activity, you will build and test a paper model helicopter.

Helicopters KWL Chart

What I Know	What I Want to Know	What I Learned

Choose one of the following challenges and design a helicopter to meet that challenge:

- How can you make the blades turn faster or slower?
- How can you make the blades turn in the opposite direction?
- How does a different kind of paper affect performance?
- How big of a helicopter can you make that will still work?
- How small of a helicopter can you make that will still work?
- How do helicopters with different blade sizes compare in performance? What size works best? How do you define "best performance"?

Which challenge did you choose?

How did you meet that challenge? Draw a picture or describe:

How was your experience designing and testing a paper helicopter similar to how NASA engineers designed and tested the Ingenuity Mars helicopter? (use the back as needed)

