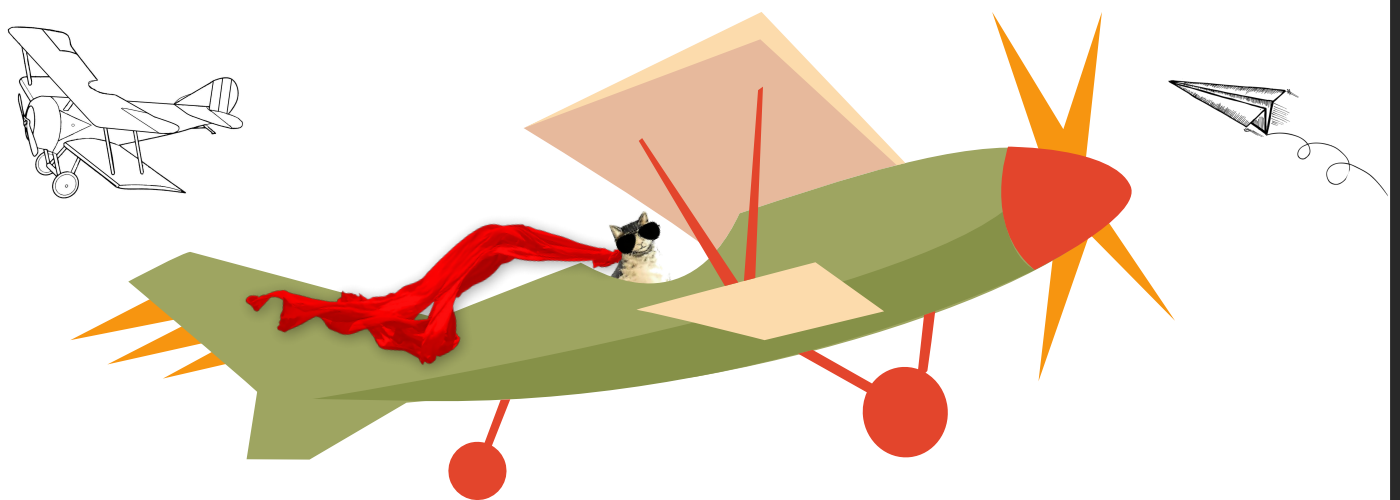

*The History Center in Tompkins County
Presents*

All About Tommy

History at Home Activity Set



The History Center in Tompkins County Presents "History at Home"

Thomas-Morse Scout S4-B a.k.a. "Tommy Plane"

All About Tommy

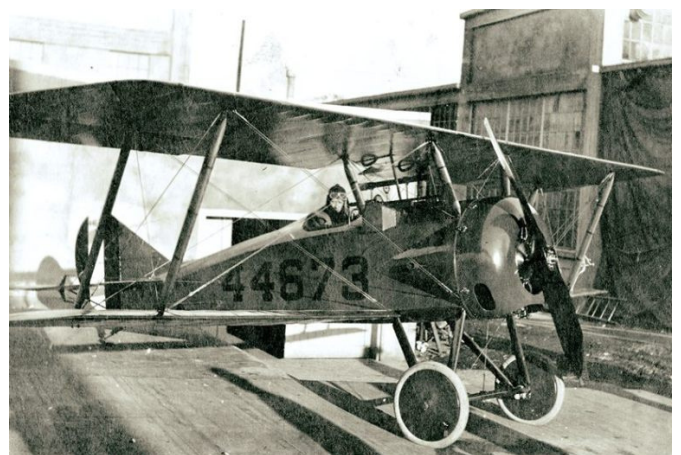
The **Thomas-Morse Scout S4** airplanes, otherwise known as "Tommy Planes", were manufactured in Ithaca N.Y. by the Thomas-Morse Aircraft Corporation between 1917-1918. The single-seat biplane was originally conceived in 1916 by B. Douglas Thomas. In June 1917, a prototype of the Scout, powered by a 100 hp Gnome Monosoupape 9B rotary engine, was flight-tested. It reached a speed of 95 mph and an altitude of 14,000 feet. Over 600 planes were ordered for the U.S. army, and they were the preferred model used to train all American combat pilots for World War I. Tommy planes flew all over the United States!

During this time the Wharton Film Studio was also producing silent films in Ithaca, and a Tommy Plane was featured in the film ***A Romance of the Air*** in 1918.

One of the few surviving Tommy planes was donated to the Ithaca Aviation Heritage Foundation in 2010. After fourteen years of searching, replicating and restoration, this **Tommy Plane took off from the Ithaca Airport in September of 2018; 100 years after it was first built.** Tommy flew for more than 30 minutes over Tompkins County. The Tommy Plane is now on permanent loan from Ithaca Aviation Heritage Foundation for display at The History Center in Tompkins County in downtown Ithaca, NY.



Photograph of Tommy's Centennial Flight over Tompkins County on September 29th 2018.



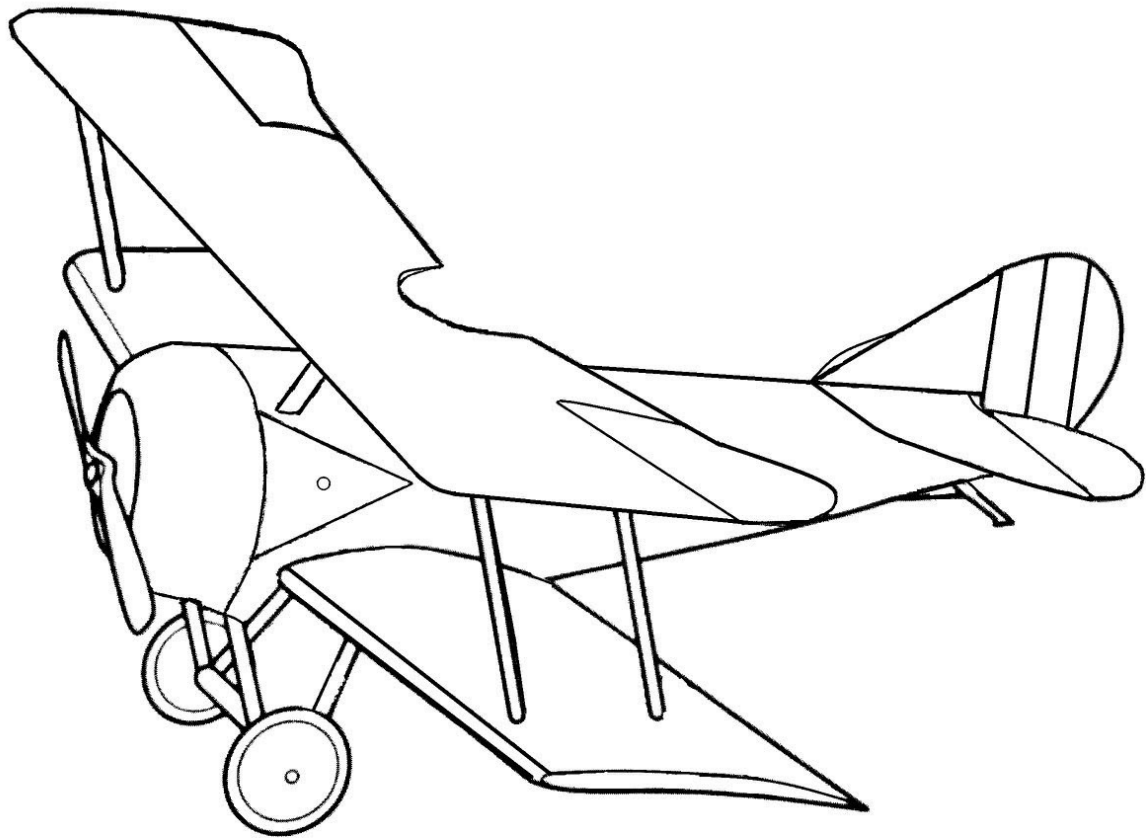
The History Center in Tompkins County, Photograph of Unknown Pilot in a Thomas-Morse Scout circa 1918

Contact community@thehistorycenter.net with any questions. Visit www.thehistorycenter.net/learn for more History at Home activities.

THE
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The History Center in Tompkins County Presents "History at Home"

Color Your Own Tommy Plane!



Contact community@thehistorycenter.net with any questions. Visit www.thehistorycenter.net/learn for more History at Home activities.

THE
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Write Your Own Silent Film Storyboard about Tommy!

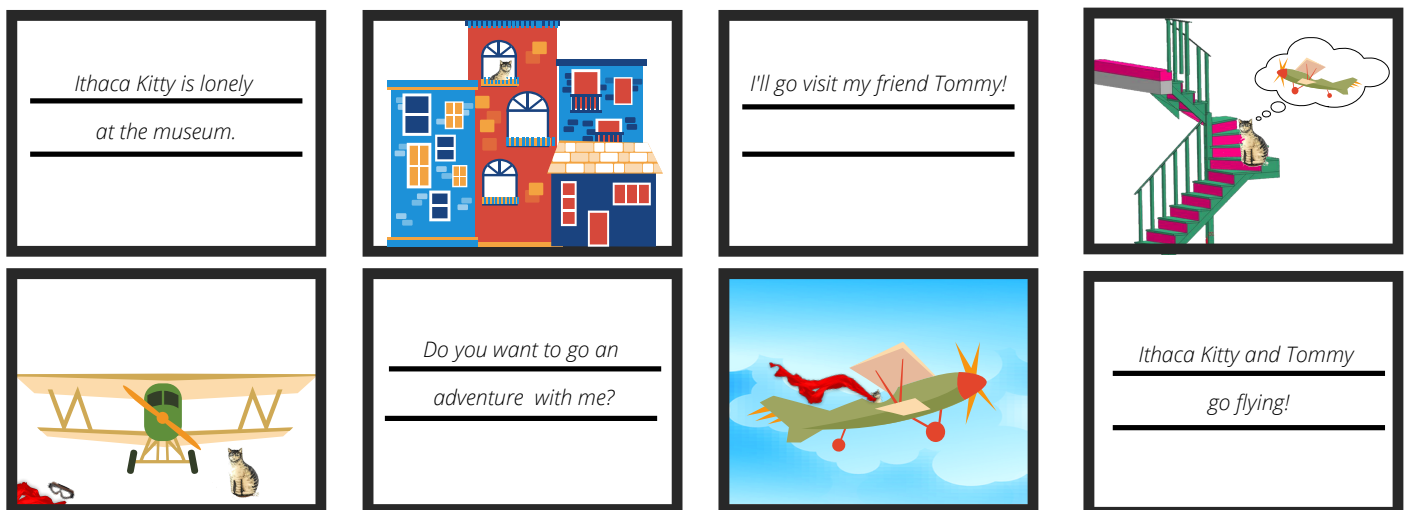
pg. 1

The "Tommy Plane" was not only a star of the sky, but a film star as well, including appearing in the 1918 film "A Romance of the Air," which was produced by Carlton Pictures. The aerial scenes were filmed in Ithaca. In silent films, the actors did not speak. Instead, they used "subtitles" to tell the audience what was happening along the way. Now you can create your own silent film storyboard starring Tommy!

How to make your Silent Film Storyboard:

1. Create an adventure for the Tommy Plane to go on! Who or what does Tommy encounter along the way?
2. Each box is a snapshot of one scene/moment of your film. Draw a picture in each Action Box to represent the main action of your film.
3. Write a subtitle in between each action box. The subtitle can be an important line of dialogue, or an explanation of what is happening.

Example: Ithaca Kitty Visits Tommy

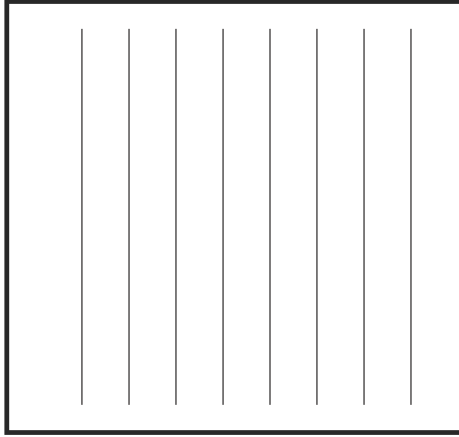


Contact community@thehistorycenter.net with any questions. Visit www.thehistorycenter.net/learn for more History at Home activities.

Silent Film Storyboard about Tommy!

Your Title: _____

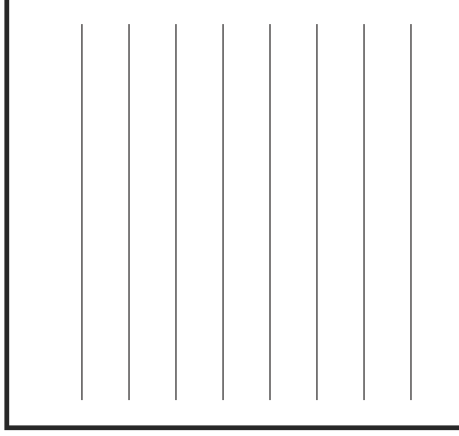
Sub-title Box



Action Box



Sub-title Box



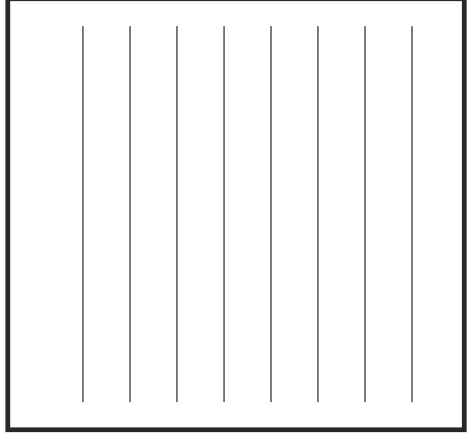
Action Box



Action Box



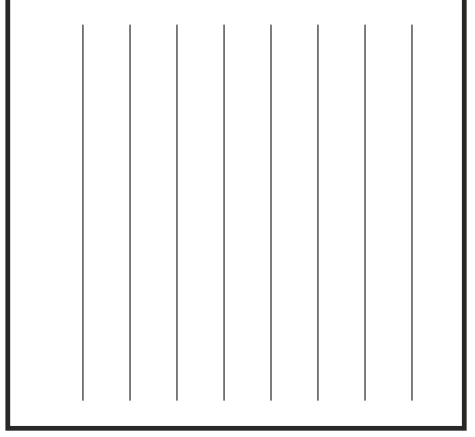
Sub-title Box



Action Box



Sub-title Box

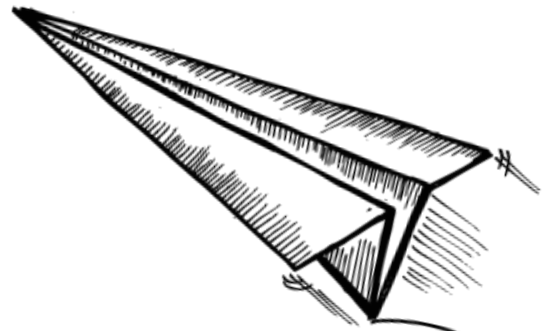


Create Your Own Paper Airplane!

pg. 1

Materials:

- One or more pieces of paper per person
(*TIP* do you have paper that you can re-use from something else? Look around your home for paper that would otherwise get recycled.)
- Ruler & scissors
- Markers , colored pencils, crayons etc.



Activity:

Create your own paper airplane! Follow the instructions on the next page or look for a different paper plane design online at: www.diynetwork.com/made-and-remade/learn-it/5-basic-paper-airplanes

Create your own design on the plane before you start folding! Draw on the wings of the plane to make it unique to you!

Is there more than one person in your house? Hold a paper airplane flying contest!

1. Create your own plane
2. Decorate your own planes so you know whose is whose.
3. Determine your flight path - pick an area of your home with the longest open space.
4. Create a target - this could be a wall at the end of the room, a poster on the wall, etc.
5. Create a starting line on the other end of the room from the target.
6. Ready, set, fly!



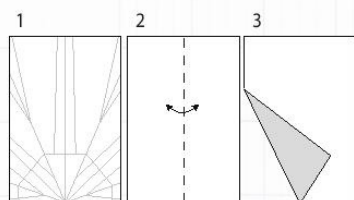
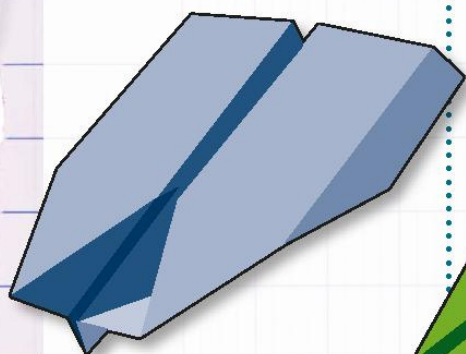
Contact community@thehistorycenter.net with any questions. Visit www.thehistorycenter.net/learn for more History at Home activities.

Create Your Own Paper Airplane!

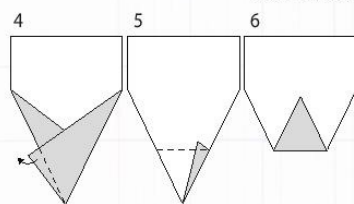
Prepare Your Materials:

Use a standard 8.5" x 11" piece of paper, or cut a larger piece to that size.

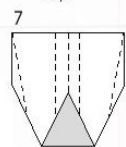
DURATION FLYER



1 Start with the sheet this way up
2 Fold in half lengthways
3 Fold down a flap as shown, then repeat on the opposite side of the sheet

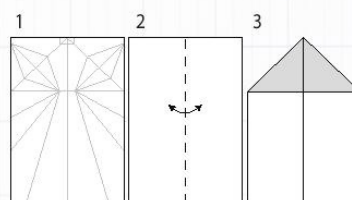
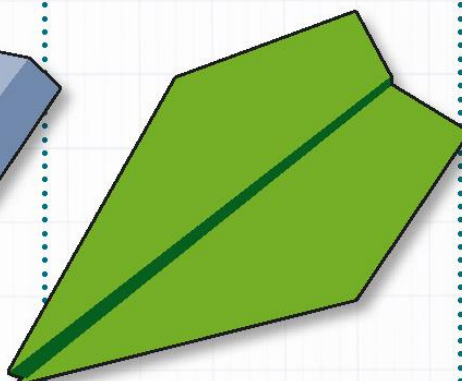


4 Fold over the overhanging flap
5 Turn the plane over and fold the tip to form a triangle

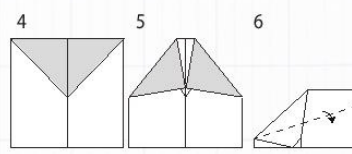


7 Fold along the dotted lines to finish the plane as pictured, and it's ready to fly!

LONG-DISTANCE FLYER



1 Start with the sheet this way up
2 Fold in half lengthways
3 Fold the top corners down

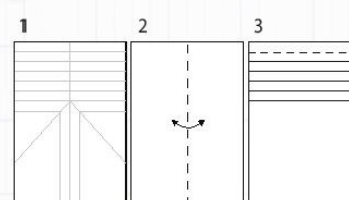
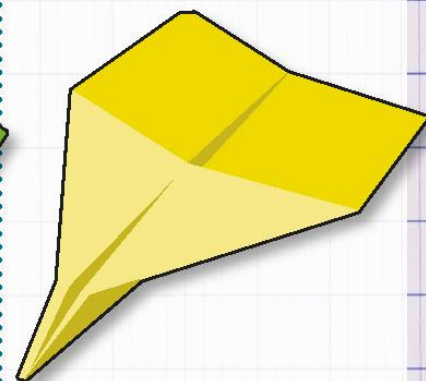


4 Fold the top triangle down
5 Fold the corners towards the centre line of the sheet, leaving a small gap at the central line, as shown above. Then fold the paper in half lengthways
6 Fold the plane along the marked line

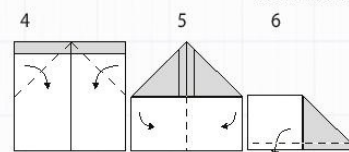


7 Fold along the marked line, then push this triangle inside the central fold of the plane and it is ready to fly!

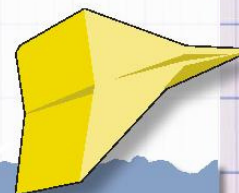
PRECISION FLYER



1 Start with the sheet this way up
2 Fold in half lengthways
3 Fold the top section down, then continue to fold the flap over and over until the final line



4 Fold the top corners down
5 Fold in half
6 Fold the wings down, and it is ready to fly!



The **MOST CONSECUTIVE TIMES TO HIT A TARGET WITH A PAPER PLANE** is 13 by Fumihiro Uno (JPN) on 6 Jan 2010. The distance between Fumihiro and the target - a bucket - was 3 m (9 ft 10 in).

The **LONGEST FLIGHT DURATION** for a regular paper aircraft is 29.2 sec by Takuo Toda (JPN) at Fukuyama City in Hiroshima, Japan, on 19 Dec 2010. He beat his own record by 1.3 sec.

Learn About Tommy on HistoryForge!

pg. 1

What is HistoryForge?

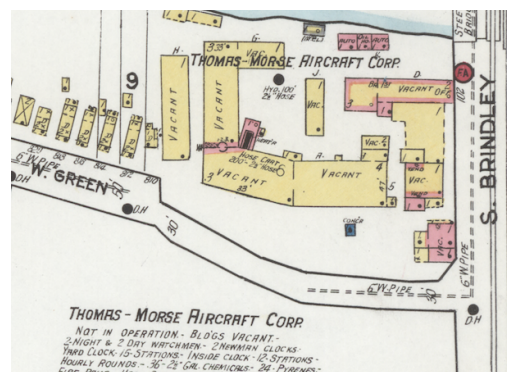


HistoryForge is an innovative digital history project combining maps, archival records, and census data that allows any community to explore its local history through the individuals who lived there and the buildings and neighborhoods they lived in.

You can search people and buildings from Ithaca's past at www.historyforge.net!

Where was Tommy built?

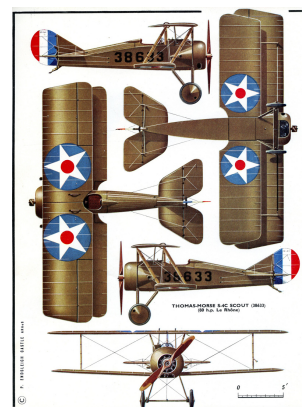
All 600 of the Thomas-Morse Scout planes were built by the Thomas-Morse Aircraft Corporation between **1917 and 1918**. Their factory was located at 120 S. Brindley St. in Ithaca. Use the "**Places**" search bar at www.historyforge.net to search this address.



The History Center in Tompkins County, Sanborn Fire Insurance Atlas of Ithaca, 1910

Questions

- Did you know sometimes the same words get spelled differently in different centuries? What's another way to spell airplane in English?
- What other businesses operated out of 120 S. Brindley Street in the 1900's?
- Where is Brindley Street? Try using Google Maps to see where the factory was located in Ithaca. What's there now?



Contact community@thehistorycenter.net with any questions. Visit www.thehistorycenter.net/learn for more History at Home activities.

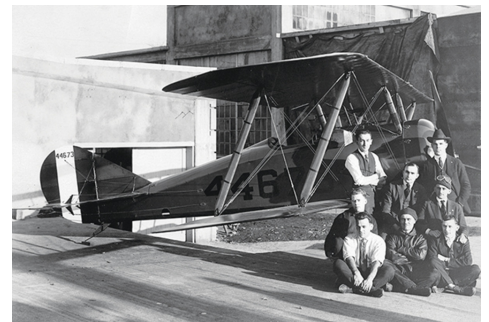
Learn About Tommy on HistoryForge!

pg. 2



Who built Tommy?

All of the Tommy planes were made in Ithaca; that means that everyone who worked on them lived in or near Ithaca too! If our Tommy was built in 1918, we should look at the census from 1920 to get the best idea of who might have worked on him in the factory.



The History Center in Tompkins County,
Thomas-Morse Factory Workers in 1918

Databases can be a little tricky, so here are some steps to get you started:

- Go to www.historyforge.net select **People > 1920 Census**
- Click on "Filter" beneath the page title and type in "**airplane**" and select "**Industry**"
 - ****TIP**** You can also try spelling it "**aeroplane**" and see if you get different answers!**

Questions

- Lots of different skills are needed to make a Tommy Plane! Look at the "**Profession**" line and write down five different professions you could have working in an airplane factory.
 - Did any of these jobs surprise you? How did each job help contribute to building the Tommy planes?
- Only **one woman in the Ithaca census worked at the Airplane Factory in 1920**. Can you find her name? What did she do?
- **People from around the world** worked on the Tommy Planes. Can you find workers from four different countries?
 - ****TIP**** You can look under both "Foreign Born" and "Place of Birth" to learn which workers were immigrants.

Contact community@thehistorycenter.net with any questions. Visit www.thehistorycenter.net/learn for more History at Home activities.

Create Your Own Junk Plane!

The Tommy Plane was first designed in 1916 by B. Douglas Thomas, chief design engineer for the Thomas Brothers Aeroplane Company. During a test flight in 1917 it reached a speed of 95 mph and an altitude of 14,000 feet! Can you build a plane at home? How far can your plane fly?

Materials:

- Tape, glue, string, staples, and other items to attach your different pieces!
- Clean items from home. These can come from your "trash" or recycling. Examples: cardboard, cans, bottles, cloth, paper, broken appliances, or old toys.
- Measuring tape



Activity:

Look around your house and in your recycling bin for clean items that are no longer needed, such as paper towel tubes, plastic bottles, clothing hangers, milk cartons, etc.

Use tape, glue, string, or other items to assemble your junk into an airplane. Does your plane have wings? Is it heavy or light? Can it stand on it's own? How many inches long is it?

Your challenge: Create an airplane out of this household junk that will fly at least 6 feet! Lay a measuring tape on the ground, and mark how far your plane goes each time. If it doesn't fly 6 feet the first time, study your design and see what changes you can make to help it go further. Try flying it in different environments. Does it fly differently outside versus inside?

Want to show off your Junk Plane? Share a photo or video on social media with the hashtag #learningathome to @tompkinshistory on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter!

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Learn More About the Tommy Plane

Digital Links:

- **Tommy Plane - The History Center in Tompkins County**
 - www.thehistorycenter.net/Tommy-Plane
- **PEGASYS Presents #102: Tommy Comes Home (30min) - PEGASYS**
 - www.youtube.com/watch?v=oocNovpq1Qg
- **Tommy Comes Home (5min) - ICTV Report**
 - www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zaiwcr3p3eM&t=29s
- **Ithaca's Airplane - Air & Space Magazine**
 - www.airspacemag.com/history-of-flight/13_sep2018-ithacas-airplane-180969918/
- **Thomas Morse Scout S4-C - The Aviation History Online Museum**
 - www.aviation-history.com/thomas/scout.html

Related Archival Collections at The History Center in Tompkins County

- **Aviation Collection V-1-5-6**
- **BorgWarner/Morse Collection - V-64-1-1**
- **Morse Family Collection V-64-8-1**
- **Thomas-Morse/Consolidated Aircraft Photograph Collection FBO-0105**

****You can look at these collections by visiting our Research Library.****

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THE HISTORY CENTER

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The History at Home learning materials have been made possible in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the New York State Council on the Arts.



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