

# AIRCRAFT CATEGORIES

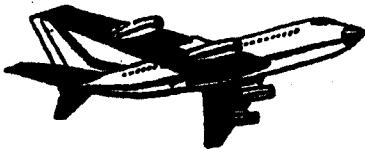
There are many kinds of aircraft today that are used in many different ways.

Here are a few common categories to start with:



## PERSONAL AND BUSINESS

Most common type seen at your airport. Often can be compared to family automobile. There are business jets that also fit into this category.



## COMMERCIAL AIRLINERS

Carry large numbers of passengers safely from city to city and even from country to country around the world.



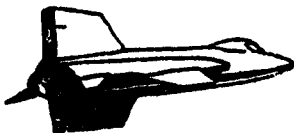
## HELICOPTERS

Can take-off and land in very small places. Sometimes called "Steep gradient" aircraft. New designs are able to fly almost as fast as an airplane.



## MILITARY AIRCRAFT

Both very high performance fighters and other special purpose aircraft are needed. Many other aircraft like those in the other categories are also used.



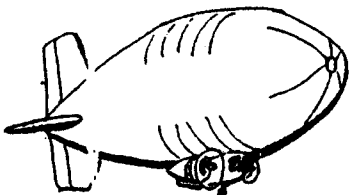
## EXPERIMENTAL

Very special aircraft used to discover new knowledge about flight. Also to test new aircraft designs.



## GLIDERS

They are without engines and must be towed into the air by another airplane. Once free, they soar like birds using the upward air currents to stay up.



## LIGHTER THAN AIR

Balloons and blimps float like corks in water. Some use a light gas and others depend upon heating the air inside for the lift force.

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1. How many types of aircraft have you seen?
  2. What are the advantages of air travel?
  3. Can you think of other ways aircraft are used?
  4. If you were a pilot, what kind of aircraft would you want to fly? Why?