It’s A Bird! No? It’s A Plane!

**Objective:** Incorporating elements of STEAM, create various airplanes to test which shape flies the farthest. To incorporate history the distances flown can be compared to the length of an aircraft carriers flight deck, from which airplanes take off and land.

**Materials Needed:**

* Yardstick or measuring tape
* Paper
* Art supplies

**Note:** This activity can scale to various grade/age levels. It can be as simple as tossing planes or increased in complexity by following the scientific method, differentiating between dependent and independent variables, forming a hypothesis and graphing results.

**Activity Steps:**

1. Create several airplanes out of the same amount, size and kind of paper (such that only the design differs). Templates are readily available on the internet, or create your own.
2. Name and color the various planes
3. Find a large room or space outdoors
4. Toss all airplanes as equally as possible from the same starting position.
5. Measure (and record) how far each plane traveled.

**Math Extensions:**

1. Create a bar graph of your results.
2. If the flight deck of the USS Yorktown is 888 feet, what fraction of that distance did your planes fly?