**HIGH IN THE CLOUDS**

**What have we learnt?**

Air is essential to life and also to flight. Our world has a layer of gas around it called the atmosphere. It is made up of several different types of gas (including nitrogen, oxygen and carbon dioxide). Environmental scientists take samples of air to find out what is happening in our atmosphere.

**Why is this important?**

If the atmosphere changes, for example there is too much carbon dioxide, this can have a big impact on the earth. Too much carbon dioxide traps too much of the sun’s energy and so can make the earth hotter.

**Something to try:**

- Challenge someone in your family to make a paper aeroplane out of newspaper or magazine paper. Test it against your own aeroplane. You could compare the distances flown, or time spent in the air.
- Use the QR code to try out different paper plane designs.

**FUN FACTS**

- The atmosphere is mostly made up of nitrogen (78%) and oxygen (21%) but also includes other gases
- A cloud is a large group of water - tiny droplets that we can see in the air
- Fog is a cloud formed close to the ground
- Wind is caused by differences in air pressure. The fastest wind ever recorded on Earth was 253 miles per hour

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