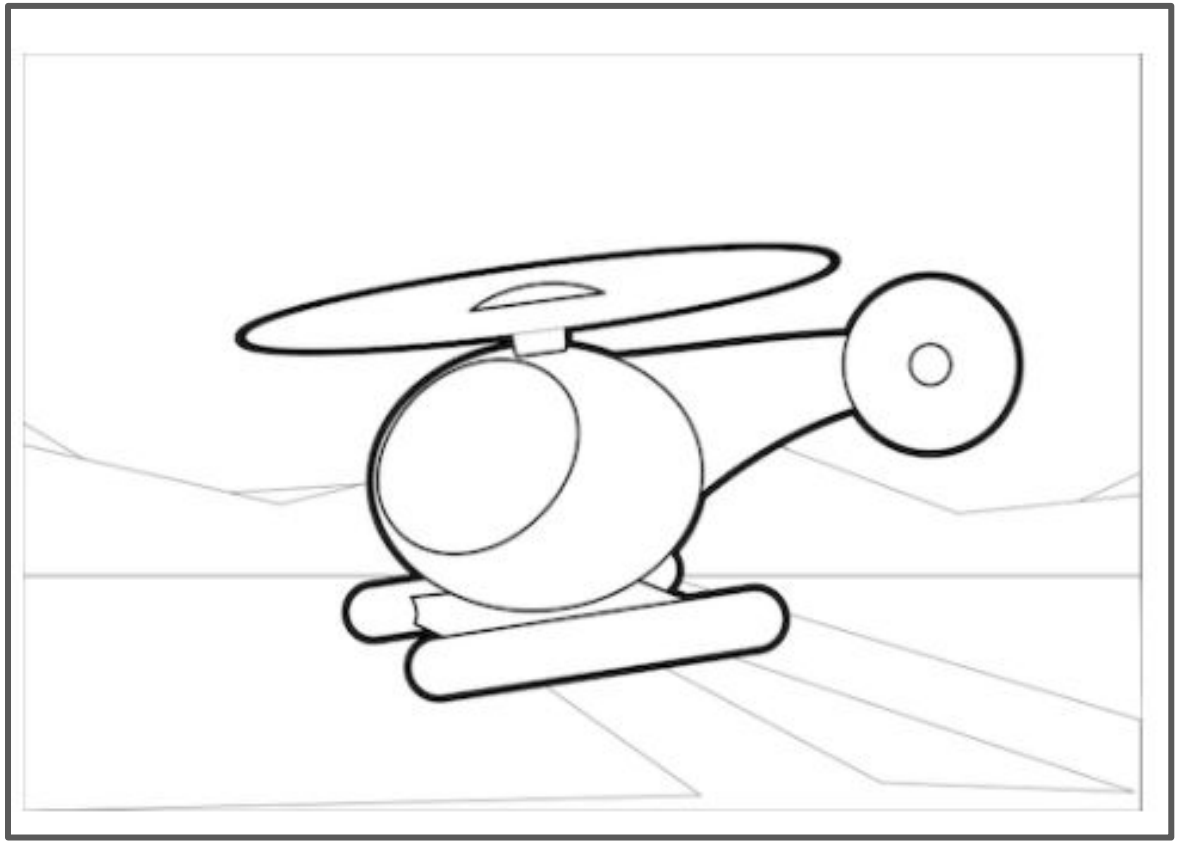
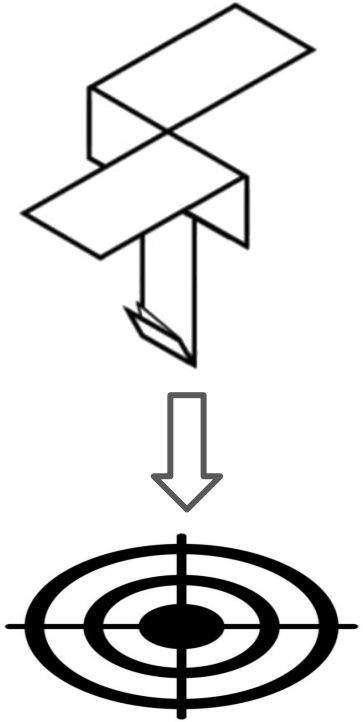
Mars Helicopter Prototype



Goal
Role
Audience
Situation
Product
Standards for Success

Goal

To create a paper helicopter prototype that reliably:



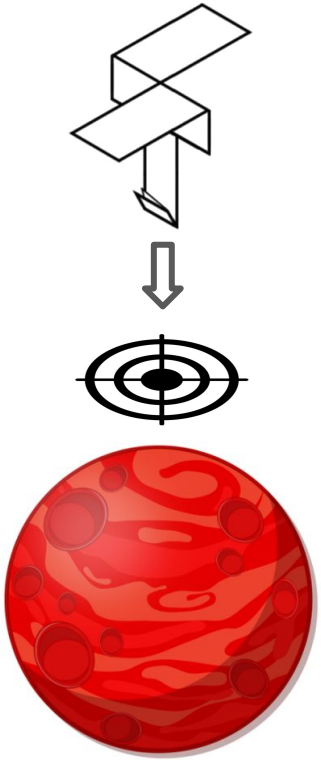
- Stays aloft for as long as possible
  (i.e., drops slowly)

- Descends as straight down as possible
  (i.e., lands accurately)

Role

You are training to be a junior aeronautical engineer at NASA working on terraforming Mars.

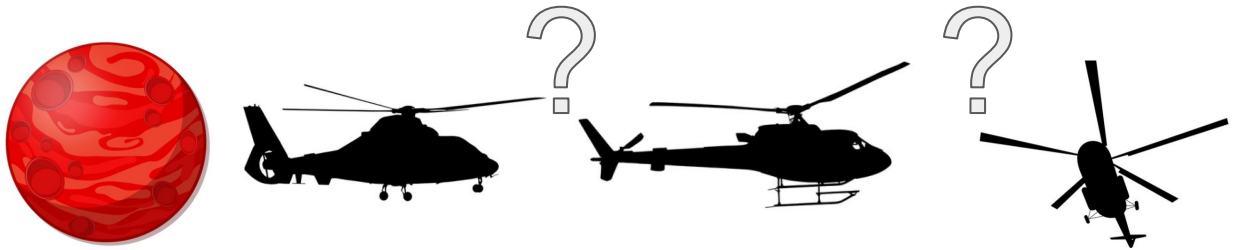
Audience



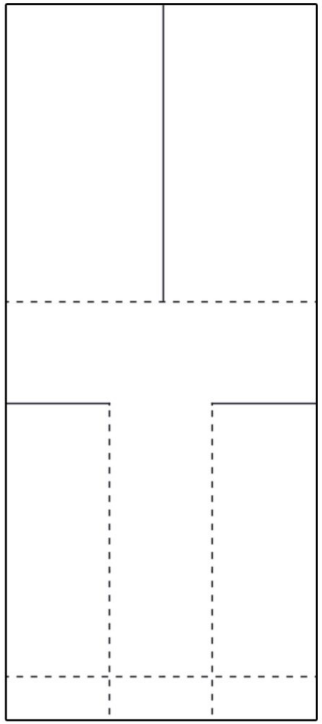
Your NASA bosses are evaluating your helicopter engineering skills to help deliver important technology safely to Mars.

Situation

Expensive, essential, and delicate technology is needed at a precise location on Mars to begin terraforming. Only a specially designed helicopter can complete this mission. One that both descends slowly and accurately.



Product

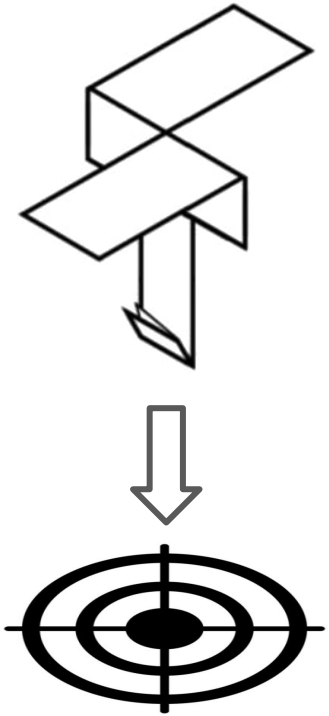


A paper helicopter prototype shall be made from an entire one-half piece of letter paper.

The paper to be used measures 5.5 by 8.5 inches (14 by 21.6 centimeters).

Standards for Success

The paper helicopter prototype shall reliably:



- Stay aloft as long as possible
- Descend as straight down as possible