

VACATION IS OVER!

The mice took a week off to go skiing, but now they need to get to the east coast as fast as possible to stay on their schedule. Can you help them fly there?

Set-up: Tape a line a few feet away from one side of a large open space to mark the launch area. Tape another line five feet beyond the first line to mark the landing zone.

Challenge: Create an aircraft that the mice can use to travel across the country. Be sure that it can fly a long distance and decorate it so everyone will know it is a DI vehicle!

Time: Part One: You will have 5 minutes to design and build a glider that is large enough to carry the two toy mice and will also fly as far as possible.

Part Two: You will have 1 minute to place the mice in your aircraft and test its flight potential. The appraisers will measure the distance it travels.

Materials: two straws
three mailing labels
one yard of yarn
two sheets of paper
one balloon
one feather
two paper clips
one rubber band
two very small toy mice (the “pilots”)
colored markers and scissors (may not be included in the solution)
one tape measure (for use by the appraisers)

Scoring: 20 points if the aircraft lands on the far side of the landing zone line
1 point for each inch that the aircraft lands past the landing zone line
up to 25 points for the creativity of the aircraft
up to 20 points for positive team work

Idea contributed by Jacob Bernhardt, friend of *Mus musculus*. Thanks!