

MILITARY AIRCRAFT

Lesson Plan

Distinct Definitions

Lesson Plan for *Military Aircraft*
Grade 3

Objective

To help students explore and explain differences in the meanings of related vocabulary words.

Things Needed

- *Military Aircraft* book
- Whiteboard
- Paper and pencils

Before the Activity

Read the *Military Aircraft* book together as a class. Then invite each student to choose a partner.

Activity

Write the following sets of words on the whiteboard:

- bomber & fighter
- propeller & rotor
- radar & sonar

Each pair of students should choose one set of words from the whiteboard. Then, students should use the information from the *Military Aircraft* book to investigate the similarities and differences between these two words. First, students should write a definition of each word. Then, students should write answers to the following questions:

- What is one thing these definitions have in common?
- What is one difference between these two definitions?

Evaluation

Collect each pair's paper and use the attached answer key to give students 1 point for each correct answer.



Standards

This lesson plan may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational texts, grade 3 (RI 3.4), and language standards, grade 3 (L 3.5).

Answer Key

Bomber & Fighter

1. bomber: a “type of military airplane . . . [used] to attack buildings and people on the ground” (p. 18)
2. fighter: “a type of military airplane . . . mainly built to attack other planes in the air” (p. 6)
3. Both terms describe types of airplanes that militaries use for attacks.
4. The airplanes attack different locations (the ground vs. the air).

Propeller & Rotor

1. propeller: “a set of blades that spin and help an airplane fly” (p. 23)
2. rotor: “a set of blades that spin and help a helicopter fly” (p. 23)
3. Both terms describe sets of spinning blades.
4. The blades are part of different vehicles (an airplane vs. a helicopter).

Radar & Sonar

1. radar: “a system that locates things by bouncing radio waves off them” (p. 23)
2. sonar: “a system that locates things by bouncing sound waves off them” (p. 23)
3. Both terms describe systems that can find the location of something.
4. The systems use different kinds of waves (radio waves vs. sound waves).

