



A Flying House? Worksheet (B1+)

Before You [Watch](#)

1. Can a house usually fly? Why not?
 2. What do you need to make a house fly?
 3. What problems do you need to figure out?
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Key Words

Ballast - heavy material to keep balloon stable

Crew/pilots - drive and guide the plane

Feet - measurement for length/height **16'**
= 16 feet = just under 5 meters

Figure out - solve a problem or puzzle

Rigging - system of ropes on ship or balloon

Altitude - height above sea level

True or False

- A. the length of the house was 60 feet
- B. the width of the house was 16 feet.
- C. it weighed around 200 lbs
- D. It took two weeks to build.
- E. nothing was built in advance
- F. the house floated over Los Angeles for 2 hours
- G. it was the largest balloon cluster flight ever.

Reading

A team of scientists, engineers, and two balloon pilots have successfully launched an 18' tall 'balloon house' from a private airfield east of Los Angeles. Using 300 weather balloons, the 16' x 16' building set a new world record for the largest balloon cluster flight ever attempted.

The entire experimental aircraft was more than 10 stories high. It reached an altitude of over 10,000 feet. The house flew for approximately one hour.

Vocabulary

Fill in the gaps using the words below

1. Without ---- a balloon will be unstable.
2. Both the ---- were experienced balloon ----.
3. The aircraft was ten stories high
4. They needed to ---- out how many ----balloons they needed.
5. Engineers worked on the ---- before the flight.
6. It flew to an ---- of 10,000 ----.

figure out * crew * altitude * feet * ballast * rigging * pilots * stories * weather

Writing

1. Imagine you are one of the pilots. Write your diary for the day of the flight.
2. You are one of the ground crew preparing for the flight. Write down five things you need to do before the flight
3. You are a radio reporter about to interview the pilots. Write down five questions.