



Observing That Air Moving Rapidly Across the Top Surface of a Wing Causes It to Lift

Place a 2 in. × 10 in. (5 cm × 25 cm) strip of paper between the pages of a book standing upright so the paper hangs out over the top. Use a straw with a large diameter to blow a stream of air across the top surface of the piece of paper. (The paper will rise).

Fasten a paper clip to the end of the paper strip and blow again. Repeat to see how many paper clips can be lifted by a stream of air.

When air moves rapidly, it is accompanied by a decrease in air pressure. Because the decrease on the top side of the paper is less than on the lower side, the greater air pressure underneath pushes the paper upward.

