



Wings During Descent

Did you know that when birds prepare to land, they change their wing shape and stretch out their feathers to slowly come down to the ground? Airplanes do the same thing with their wings. To help slow down the landing of a big jet, pilots lower the plane's slats and flaps (sections on the front and rear edges of the wing) and lift up the spoilers (sections in the center of the wing). By lowering the flaps and slats and lifting the spoilers, the air flow (air lift) over the wing is changed, helping to bring the plane down for a safe landing. If you can see the wings of your plane from your seat, watch the flaps move during landing and takeoff!

WANT TO BE A PILOT?

If you ever want to learn to fly an airplane you'll need to go to flight school and learn all the basics of flight, parts of an airplane and how the aircraft controls operate. You will also need to study navigation, meteorology, flight physiology and other topics essential to safe flight.

Vocabulary words:

LOGBOOK – A record of a pilot's training and flying achievements.

CONTRAILS – Condensation trails or vapor trails made by the exhaust of a jet aircraft.

Try this experiment:



Take an ordinary piece of lightweight paper. Hold onto the two corner edges and let it bend down just below your mouth. Blow hard over the top of the paper. Do you see the paper rise? This is called *air lift*.

