

GLOSSARY: O P & Q

This webpage found at:
<http://pa4h.cas.psu.edu/Curricula/AerospaceSupp/Activities/Glossary.htm>

O

orbital velocity - the speed of a spacecraft traveling in a circular path

orbiter - the space shuttle

P

parachute (1) - fabric attached to objects or persons to give a slowed trip to earth

parachute (2) - port at the top of a balloon that lets the air escape to descend or to deflate the balloon. It's like a patch that presses against the top opening. When a balloonist pulls a valve line, it pulls the parachute down and releases hot-air.

parallel - equal distance apart, extending in the same direction

payload - on a space flight, a collection of instruments and software for performing scientific or application investigations, or commercial production

payload specialist - crew member, not a career astronaut, that is responsible for managing assigned experiments or other payload elements. The payload specialist is an expert in experiment design and operation.

pilot - a person who operates aircraft or is the assistant commander of aircraft or space flight

pilotage - oldest form of navigation by using check points and/or landmarks

pitch - changed angle of movement of aircraft fuselage in relation to the horizon (nose up or nose down of aircraft)

Pitts - a 1-2 seat, single engine prop, bi-wing aircraft

powerplant/engine - motor that powers the aircraft

pressure scoop - hanging down from the bottom of the balloon, this fireproof material is used to direct cool air into the balloon. The cool air helps pressurize the inside of the balloon

pressurize - to keep near-normal atmospheric pressure inside during high altitude flights

private pilot regulations - You must be 17 years old, pass the written ground school exam, pass a medical exam given by a FAA designated physician and fly only with an instructor or with an instructor's written approval.

propane burners - the heat source for a hot-air balloon. Liquid propane heats the air inside the balloon. The temperature at the top of the rising balloon is about 212° F, or the boiling point of water. The liquid propane is carried in tanks in the basket.

propeller - two or more twisted blades that pull an airplane forward as they turn. Blades have the same shape as a wing.

puller kite - a kite with a large angle of attack. It rides low in the sky and pulls strongly on the string.

pulsar - a rapidly rotating neutron star that emits radio waves; the remnant of a dying giant star

pushrod¹⁶ - a rod that connects a servo to the movable parts of a plane

Q

Web design: Victoria Kramer. This page was last updated on September 26, 2005.
There are no plans for future updates.