

What Happened to Stardust?

NOVA Activity | Vanished!

In 1947, the airplane *Stardust* disappeared on a flight from Buenos Aires, Argentina, to Santiago, Chile, without a trace. Investigators were stumped and many theories were proposed, from the airplane crashing into a mountain or glacier to it being blown up or abducted by aliens. It wasn't until 53 years later that some of the plane's pieces began to reappear. Follow investigators as they try to solve the mystery of what happened.



Procedure

Make a chart like the one below on a separate sheet of paper.

- ① While watching the program, take notes on the evidence and possible conclusions made by investigators.
- ② Following the program, work with the other students in your class to fill out any missing information in your chart and answer the questions that follow.

Questions

Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

- ① Was the engine running when the plane crashed? How do you know?
- ② Where did the plane crash?
- ③ Why do you think the plane crashed?
- ④ What question remained after investigators had collected and analyzed all the evidence?

Evidence	Information about Evidence	Possible Conclusions
• Rolls Royce engine		
• first pieces of wreckage		
• two main wheels		
• various wreckage		
• human remains		
• tail landing gear, minus its wheel		
• propeller		
• other evidence?		
• other evidence?		