Name: _____

It's a bird! It's a plane! No, it's a blimp!

by Erin Ryan

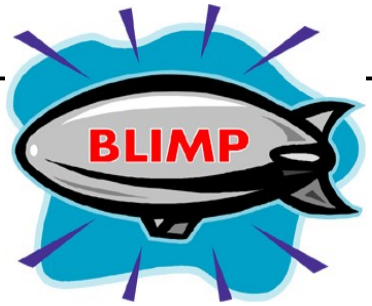
High above many big sporting events, you're likely to see a blimp sailing through the sky. Blimps are related to hot air balloons. The main difference is that blimps use the gas helium, and they can move in any direction. Hot air balloons are only able to move vertically, up and down. When a hot air balloon moves in any other direction, it's because the wind is blowing the balloon along.

Blimps s would fly over the oce ere also used to trans s. Today, blimps are mostly used for advertising different products and for televising sports.

A blimp has many different parts. Helium fills the envelope, which gives the blimp its giant, oval shape. There are two engines that help the blimp reach speeds from 30 to 70 miles per hour. The rudder is the part of the tail that controls the blimp when it moves to the left or the right. The basket at the bottom of the blimp is called a gondola. It's a small room where passengers and pilots enjoy their ride. Some blimps have night signs and can flash messages from the sky during the night.

The next sports event you watch on television, or the next time you're lucky enough to see one of these airships fly by, remember, it's not a bird, it's not a plane, it's a blimp!

Name: _____



It's a bird! It's a plane! No, it's a blimp!

by Erin Ryan

1. How are blimps different from hot air balloons?

- **a.** Blimps move only vertically, but hot air balloons can move in any direction.
- **b.** Hot air balloons carry passengers, but blimps do not.
- **c.** Blimps need blowing wind to move, but hot air balloons do not.
- **d.** Blimps can move forward, backwards, up, and down. Hot air balloons can only move up and down unless the wind pushes them.

2. Use information from the article to complete the graphic organizer.

Uses for Blimps
1.
4.

3. Explain the purpose of a rudder on a blimp.

_____

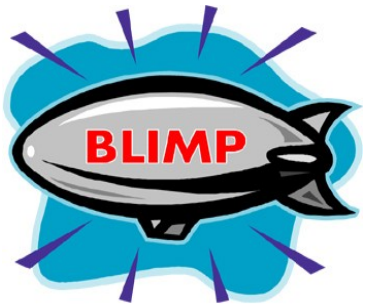
_____

4. What is the author's purpose for writing this article?

- **a.** to entertain you with a funny story
- **b.** to explain hot blimps are different from hot air balloons
- **c.** to tell you about a unique method of transportation
- **d.** to persuade you to become a blimp pilot when you grow up

Name: _____ **ANSWER KEY**

It's a bird! It's a plane! No, it's a blimp!



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Uses for Blimps
 ~PREVIEW~ Please log in or register to download the printable version of this worksheet.
4. **Used to advertising products**

Also accept: **Used for televising sports**

3. Explain the purpose of a rudder on a blimp.

The rudder controls the blimp when it moves to the left or the right.

4. What is the author's purpose for writing this article?

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