

History – The first aeroplane flight

Big Question for Year 1 – What impact did the Wright brothers have on the World?

What do we want children to know:

- when the first aeroplane flight took place (key dates) and how it fit in with what was going in the World at that point in history;
- who the Wright brothers were;
- what a huge achievement it was to succeed in creating the first flight;
- how the Wright brothers changed flight and how this impacts on what we do today;
- other events and people linked to the first aeroplane flight and the history of flight – Amelia Earhart, concorde.

Books that might link:

'Emma Jane's Aeroplane' by Katie Haworth & Daniel Rieley; 'Amelia Earhart' (Little People, Big Dreams) by Isabel Sanchez Vegara & Maria Diamantes; 'The Wright Brothers' Fact Book; 'Icarus was Ridiculous' by Pamela Butchart; 'Flight School' by Nick Bernard; Stephen Biesty's 'Flying Machines';

Useful websites:

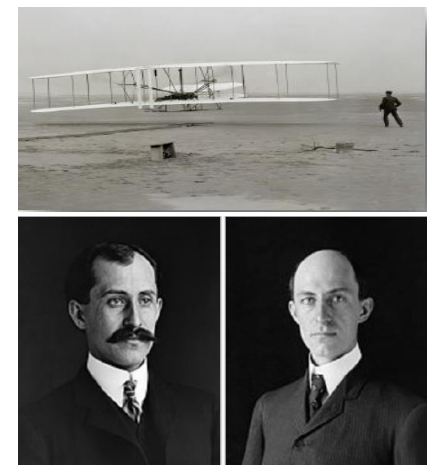
[Video of early attempts at flying](#) – YouTube clip

[Icarus and Daedalus \(dance\)](#) from bbc.co.uk

[Icarus and Daedalus](#) from historyforkids.org

[Animated story of the Wright brothers](#) – YouTube clip

[Proud to be a pilot](#) from bbc.co.uk



The Wright brothers

Overview: In this unit children will be learning about the Wright brothers' journey to successfully complete the first aeroplane flight

Prior learning: Previously in Year 1, the children have looked at several key events in history – including World War 2 and The Great Fire of London; they have created timelines for their own lives and longer timelines including events they have studied.

Future learning: In Year 2, the children will be looking at other famous people and events in History

Cross curricular: Children will design and make their own aeroplane (D&T) and test it, measuring how far it flies (maths). They will look at how an aeroplane can fly (science).

Key knowledge: To know the key facts and dates associated with the first flight and the impact this had for modern society.

Key skills: To understand similarities and differences between now and the 1900s; to ask and answer questions using stories as a source of evidence; develop understanding of how we can find out about the past;

What should children already know?

Children should already know that aeroplanes fly in the sky. A pilot flies a plane. A plane has wings. Some children will have experience of being on an aeroplane

Subject specific knowledge and language

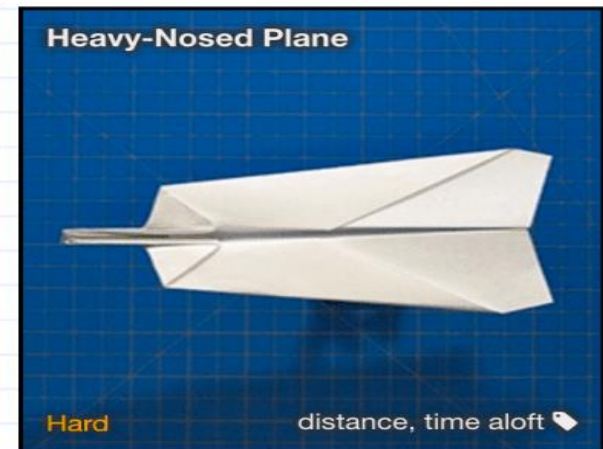
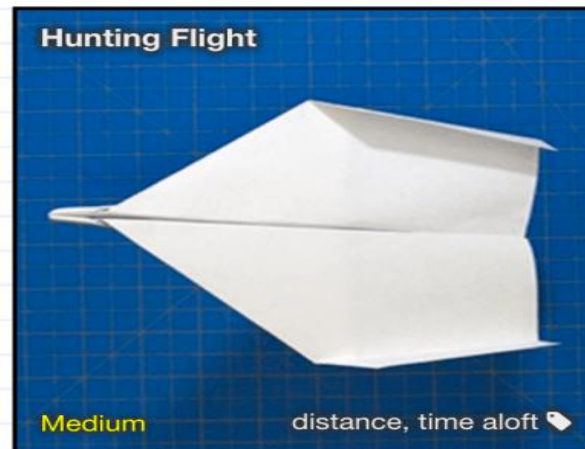
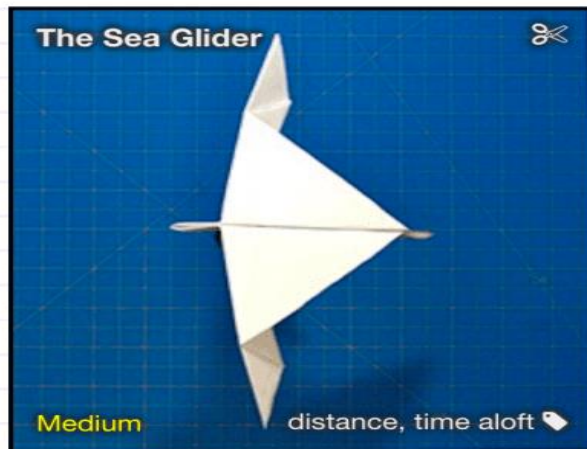
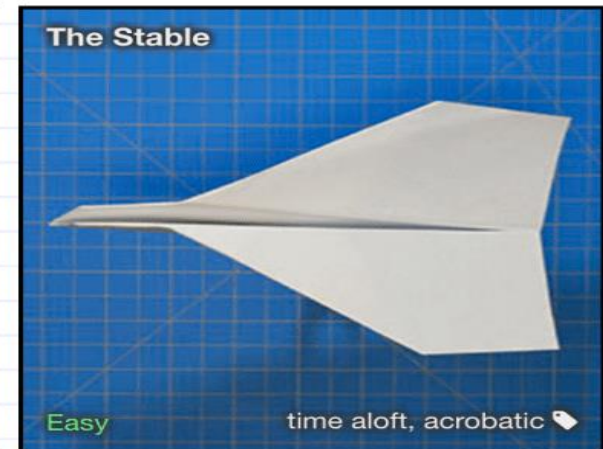
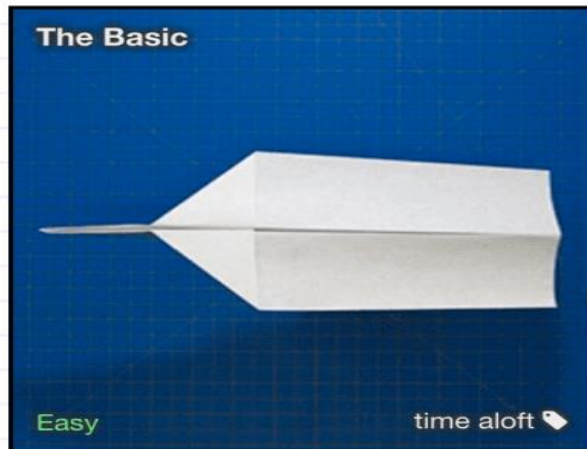
The Wright brothers	Orville and Wilbur Wright were American mechanics and inventors of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, who achieved the first sustained flight of a heavier-than-air machine — what we today call an aeroplane. Their flight was made at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, in 1903.
Kitty Hawk	Kitty Hawk is a town in Dare County, North Carolina. Kitty Hawk became world-famous after the Wright brothers made the first controlled powered airplane flights at Kill Devil Hills, four miles (6 km) south of the town, on December 17, 1903.
The Wright flyer	The Wright Flyer (often retrospectively referred to as Flyer I or 1903 Flyer) was the first successful heavier-than-air powered aircraft. Today, the airplane is exhibited in the National Air and Space Museum in Washington D.C.
aeroplane/airplane	aeroplane is the preferred British English spelling; airplane is the preferred American English spelling;

Timeline of events linked to other eras studied across the school.



Key transferable vocabulary

glide (verb) glider (noun)	to move easily without effort or noise: an aircraft similar to an airplane with long fixed wings but no engine; it glides.
aeroplane	a vehicle, method of transport, that is designed for air travel and that has wings and one or more engines.
helicopter	a type of aircraft without wings, that has one or two sets of large blades that go round very fast on top. It can land and take off vertically and can stay in one place in the air.
aviation (noun); aviator (noun);	the activity of flying aircraft, or of designing, producing, and keeping them in good condition. an aircraft pilot.
mechanic	someone whose job is repairing the engines of vehicles and other machines.
invent (verb) inventor (noun) invention (noun)	to design and/or create something that has never been made before; a person who designs/creates something; the thing that is designed or created.
hot air balloon	an aircraft consisting of a very large bag filled with heated air/gas, with a basket (container) hanging under it.
powered aircraft	an aircraft with an engine that gives it power;



How far can each glider fly? How can you measure how far it flies? (Some ideas: you could use a stick, a shoe or a ruler).

Which glider flew the furthest? Why do you think it flew the furthest?

Which glider flew the shortest distance? Why do you think it flew the shortest distance?