



The History of Flight



DATE	WHAT HAPPENED
400 BC	First kites were invented in China
1485	Leonardo Da Vinci designed the ornithopter
1783	A duck, sheep and a chicken flew in a hot air balloon.
1903	Orville Wright achieved controlled flight for 12 seconds
1910	Passenger flights began
1927	Charles Lindbergh flew non-stop across the Atlantic
1933	Boeing 247 made its first flight with 10 passengers.
1961	First flight into space

KEY VOCABULARY:

WORDS	MEANING
Aeroplane	Powered flying machine with fixed wings
Aircraft	Flying machine
Aviation	The world of aircraft and air travel
Cabin	Room or space on an aircraft or ship
Cockpit	Small space where the pilot(s) of an aeroplane sits
Elevators	Hinged areas on the horizontal stabilisers at the tail end of an aeroplane, used to control the aeroplane's angle of flight and lift on its wings
Engine	Machine that provides power
Flight	Journey through the air
Flying machine	Machine that can fly through the air
Fuselage	Body of an aircraft
Glider	Light unpowered aircraft with wings
Hot air balloon	Large bag filled with hot air or gases that can carry passengers through the air in a basket
Jet	Aircraft with powerful jet engines
Landing gear	Wheels and other parts that bear the weight of an aeroplane
Modern	The latest equipment or knowledge
Propeller	Turning part with blades that power an aeroplane
Rudder	Hinged area on the vertical stabilisers on an aeroplane, used to steer the aeroplane



The Wright Brothers

- Orville and Wilbur Wright were two brothers born in Ohio in the United States of America. Wilbur was born in 1867 and Orville was born in 1871.
- As children, the Wright brothers were given a toy helicopter by their father which worked by pulling an elastic band. This started their interest in flying.
- During 1902 and 1903, Wilbur and Orville designed a light engine that was strong enough to power a small aeroplane.
- On 17th December 1903, Wilbur Wright became the first person to successfully fly a plane.

Other key figures

Leonardo Da Vinci, Amy Johnson, Amelia Earhart, Yuri Gagarin