

Article #1 - Early Ideas about Flying

Vocabulary: feathers, movement, flap, aircraft, hot air balloon

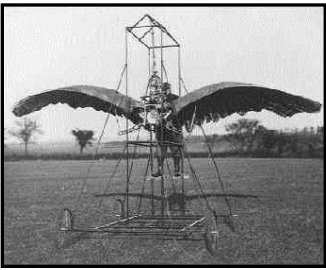


¹ The ancient Greeks believed only the Gods could fly. One Greek legend tells the story of Daedalus and his son, Icarus. King Minos imprisoned them on an island. To escape, they made wings of wax and feathers and flew away. Daedalus made it back safely. But, Icarus was so excited about flying, he did not hear his father's warning. He flew too close to the sun. The sun's heat melted the wax on his wings. The boy crashed to his death in the sea below.

People had many ideas about flying.

² In our culture, people wrote stories about strange ways to fly. For example, stories have been written about magic carpets, witches on broomsticks, and other forms of movement through the air. One early story is *The Man in the Moon*. In the story, the hero trains a flock of geese to fly him to the moon.

People had many ideas about flying.



³ Birds inspired people to explore new ideas about flying. Leonardo da Vinci was one of the people inspired by birds. He made one of the first flying machines called the ornithopter (ôr n - th p t r). The machine had wings like a bird. To fly, a person had to flap the wings up and down. It was not very successful.

⁴ After trying many things, people were finally able to fly. The first way people flew was in a hot air balloon. Since then, flying machines have evolved into the modern aircraft of today.

People had many ideas about flying.