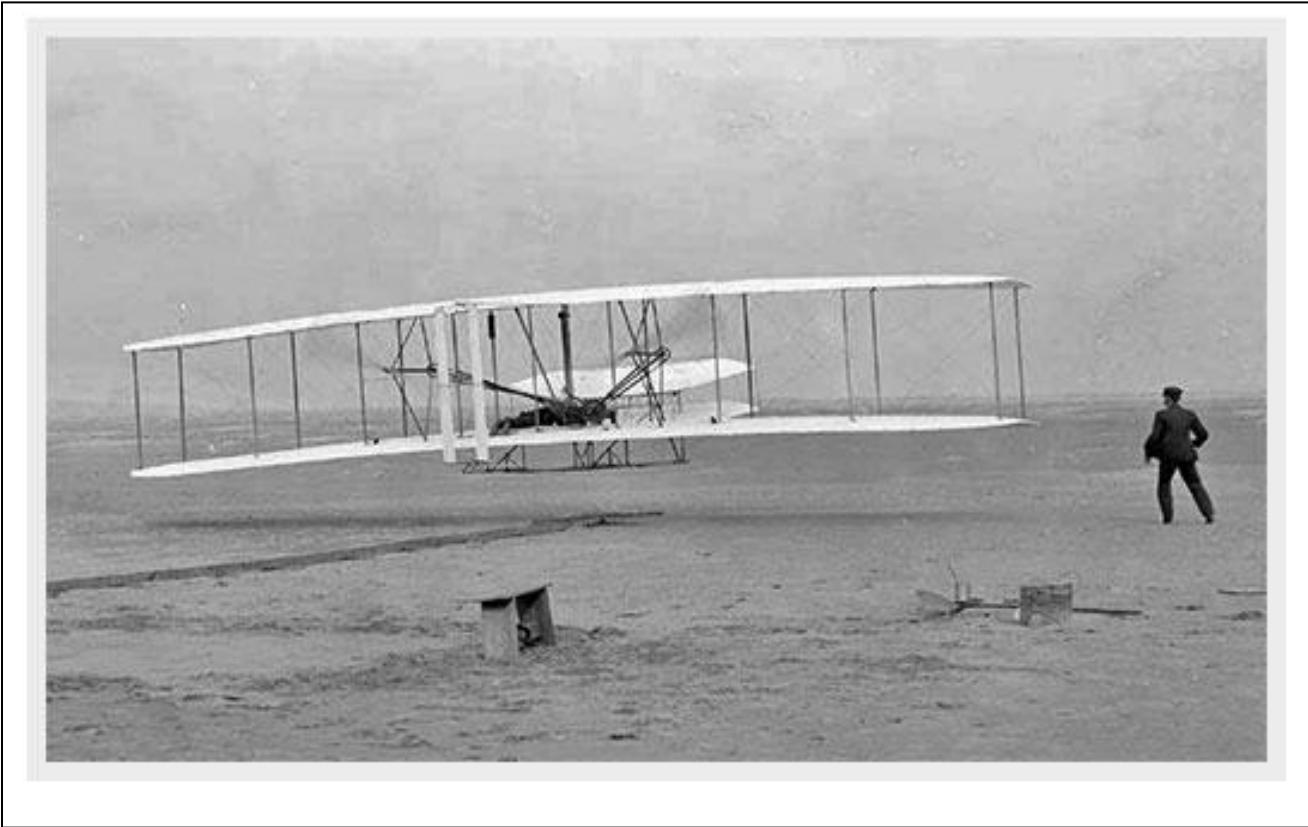


Picture of the Wright Brother's Airplane (Step 36)



An early photograph of one of the Wright brothers at Kitty Hawk, NC in 1903. The brothers chose the beaches near Kitty Hawk because there was consistent wind that was needed to lift the airplane.

Photo obtained from the Library of Congress

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Dr. Wayne Clough
Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution*



Things Brought Home, Things Left Behind

Photo obtained from: <http://www.si.edu/About/People>

Level 2 Text - Early Ideas about Flying

¹ Have you ever wanted to fly?
People used to think flying was magic.
They believed only the Gods could fly.

² People have thought of some strange ways to fly.
They wrote about these ideas in stories.
One idea was to fly on a broomstick.
Another idea was to fly on a carpet.
How would that work?
Still another idea was to fly to the moon with a bunch of geese.
The name of that story was *The Man on the Moon*.

³ People have watched birds fly.
Flying seems so easy for a bird.
They flap their wings up and down.
Then they fly.
One of the early flying machines used this idea.
It had two wings that people flapped up and down.
Think about how hard that would be.
It was not successful.

⁴ The first way man flew was in a hot air balloon.
He went up, up, up in the hot air balloon.
Now we can fly in lots of ways.
We can still fly in a hot air balloon.
We can fly in a plane.
We can fly in a space shuttle.
We can fly in a jet.
I wonder how we will fly next.

The Fun of It

By Amelia Earhart

Vocabulary: solo, altimeter, manifold, ocean, gauge, Atlantic Ocean, adventure



¹ On May 21, 1942, I started my solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean. For several hours the weather was good. Then my altimeter broke. The altimeter is the instrument I use to tell how far above the ground I am flying.

² That night I ran into a storm. The wind made it hard to fly the plane. I tried to fly above the storm but got ice on the wings. I had to fly lower where the air was warmer. Without the altimeter, I could not tell how high I was flying. A thick fog made things worse.

Amelia Earhart was brave.

³ Then the manifold ring caught on fire. The manifold is made of heavy metal. I hoped it would last until I reached land. When the sun came up, I saw the ocean. The white clouds around me looked like snow.

⁴ I needed to land quickly. The last two hours of the flight were the hardest. The manifold was vibrating badly. The reserve fuel tank gauge was leaking.

Amelia Earhart was brave.

⁵ Thank goodness Ireland was right in front of me. I did not want to land in the hills because I did not know the layout of the land. I was afraid I might hit a mountain in the storm. Instead I turned north and followed a railroad, looking for a city with an airport. The only place to land was a field full of cows. Even though I frightened the cows, it was the perfect landing spot.

⁶ My trip lasted 15 hours and 18 minutes. I had traveled two thousand and twenty six miles across the Atlantic Ocean. There ended the flight and my happy adventure.

Amelia Earhart was brave.