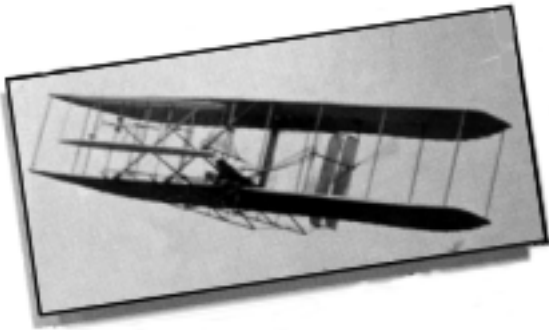


First Flight

December 17th, 2003 was the 100th anniversary of the Wright Brothers first flight. Use this important moment in history as a launching site for a learning unit

full of fun and information. Have your students:

- Construct an aviation time line (after doing research) and have the students add illustrations
- Have students create word searches or crossword puzzles using aviation terms they learned in their research
- Make a mural showing different modes of transportation - then and now - and future
- Let any student who gets a perfect score on their spelling pretest fold their paper into an airplane and have a flight demonstration with the other perfect spellers
- Use flight as a theme for a bulletin board i.e. high flying work, soaring with the best . . .
- Have each member of the class make paper airplanes and fly them. Measure the distance each plane flew. Have the students create a graph that compares the distance of each flight.



First Flight Web Research Resources

<http://wright.nasa.gov/index.htm>
lesson plans under activities

<http://www.ueet.nasa.gov/StudentSite/>
site for students to use, has educational games and activities as well as lesson plans

Here's a list of books sure to send young minds soaring!

The Wright Brothers by Pamela Duncan Edwards with illustrations by Henry Cole. A picture book that has a repeating verse that can get a little tedious but it also has a band of mice that provide some comic relief along with interesting facts about the Wright brothers and the first flight.

The Wright Brothers at Kitty Hawk by Donald J. Sobol. A Scholastic biography that tells the story of the Wright brothers. Appropriate for middle elementary students.

Airborne - A Photobiography of Wilbur and Orville Wright by Mary Collins. This book is part of a series of National Geographic photobiographies. It is a comprehensive history of the Wright brothers and the photographs bring the story to life. Written for advanced readers but the photographs can be used in a unit of study to give faces to the names.

First Flight - The Wright Brothers and the Invention of the Airplane by Tom Crouch. This is a handbook produced by the National Park Service. We found a copy at the library. It is a great research tool with many photographs and artifacts and is appropriate for the more advanced readers.

Flight - The Trials and Triumphs of Air Pioneers by Reg Grant. Interesting book that starts with the Wright brothers and presents information from the start of aviation through present day. Another book for the more advanced reader and another good resource for the person interested in many aspects of flying.