

LEVELED READER • 1

Fantastic Flying Machines



Written by John Meyer and Elizabeth Austin

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Fantastic Flying Machines

A Reading A-Z Level I Leveled Reader • Word Count: 237



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 Level 1 Leveled Reader
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Front cover: The Proteus, a very high-flying observation airplane

Back cover: A military helicopter

Title page: The Lockheed Constellation, used to carry the U.S. president in the 1950s

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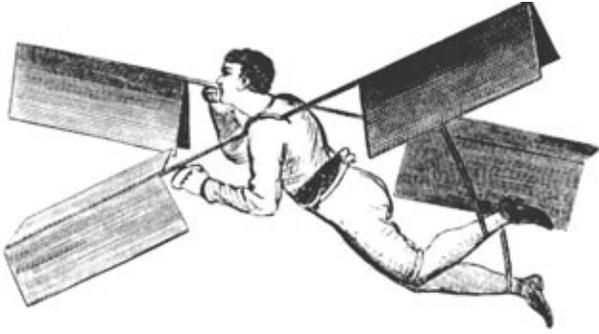
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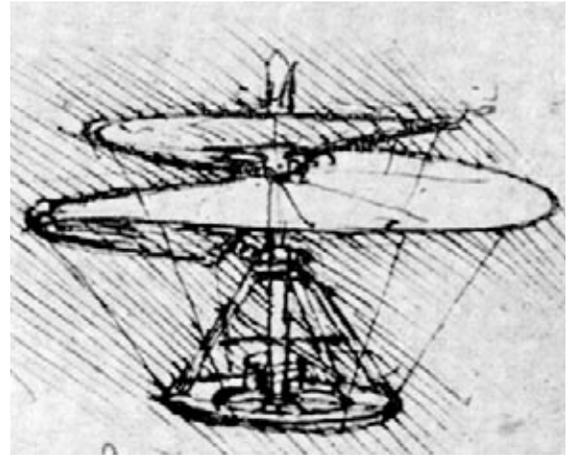
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Introduction
What if you could fly like a bird? Where would you go?
What would you see?





These wings flapped when the person moved his arms and legs.



Leonardo da Vinci's helicopter drawing

People always wanted to fly. Some made wings out of wood. One artist drew a plan for a helicopter hundreds of years ago!

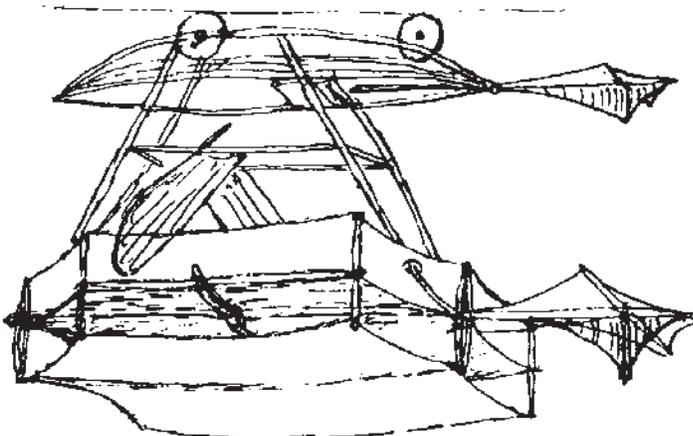
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Two brothers made the first hot-air balloon.
Other people built strange gliders.

History of Flight

A drawing of one of Cayley's first gliders



George Cayley built the first glider that carried a person.





Wilbur Wright watches his brother Orville make his famous flight.

Airplanes use engines to stay in the air. The Wright brothers built the first airplane that worked. People could fly!

7

8

Airplanes have changed a lot since the early days of flight. Now, large planes can carry your family on vacation.

Airplanes

This commercial airplane carries hundreds of passengers around the world every day.





A Navy jet fighter takes off from an aircraft carrier.



Jet gases form streaks of cloud in the sky.

Some planes today use strong jet engines.
They help planes fly high and fast.

9

10

Planes that fly low or slow often use propeller engines.
Propeller blades spin like a fan.

A Navy plane with four propeller engines



Planes carry things quickly over long distances.
Planes carry cargo all around the world.



This plane can carry 132,000 kilograms (291,000 lbs.) of cargo.

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12

Helicopters fly differently from planes. They can fly in any direction. They can take off straight up and can land almost anywhere.

Helicopters

A helicopter ambulance carries sick and injured people.



A helicopter lands on top of a building.





Rescue helicopters save people on the ocean.

Flying in a helicopter saves time. Helicopters are used to quickly help people who are lost or hurt.

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Hot-air balloons are quiet. They are pushed by the wind. Unlike other flying machines, you can't steer them.

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Blimps and Balloons

Hot-air balloon passengers ride in a basket.



Beautiful balloons fill the sky.





Blimps are often used to film sporting events.



Riding in a blimp gives an amazing view.

Blimps are like long balloons.

Blimps have engines and are steered by pilots.

Have you seen a blimp?

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16

A hang glider soars over a beach.



Other Ways to Fly

There are many ways to fly.
 A hang glider drifts on a breeze.
 A hot-air balloon can take you
 for a ride.
 Airplanes fly everywhere.
 Where would you like to fly?