

# THE HISTORY OF FLIGHT

## KEY FACTS

- The History of Flight started with Leonardo Da Vinci, an inventor and artist
- In 1485, He designed a machine called an ornithopter, although he never built it.
- 300 years later, two French brothers called the Montgolfier brothers invented the hot air balloon
- Hot air balloons work because hot air rises. A burner inside the balloon heats the air so that it floats upwards..
- 130 years later, in 1903 the Wright brothers in America built the world's first aeroplane. It flew for 12 seconds
- In 1921, Bessie Coleman became the first African-American woman to gain a pilot's licence. However, she had to go to France to do this as America wouldn't allow African American women to become pilots
- In 1927, Charles Lindbergh, an American aviator, was the first person to fly across the Atlantic Ocean in a plane
- In 1932, Amelia Earhart became the first woman to fly across the Atlantic. In 1935 she also became the first woman to fly across the Pacific Ocean
- During World War II, planes became more advanced. They were used to drop bombs and to spy on the enemy
- In the 1970s, air travel became cheaper so more ordinary people could travel on planes
- In 1976 the fastest aircraft the world has ever known, Concorde, took its first commercial flight.
- In 1961 Russian Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first person in space
- In 1969 Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin were the first people to land on the moon
- Sometimes it is hard to know who was actually the first to do something. Historians will only say for sure if they have a reliable source.

## KEY VOCABULARY

- Aviation:** a science of flying aeroplanes
- Hot air balloon:** a form of flight powered by hot air
- Inventor:** a person who thinks up and makes a completely new object
- Ornithopter:** a flying machine designed over 500 years ago
- Navigator:** a person who uses a map to find the way
- Reliable source:** a provider of information that can be trusted

## TIMELINE



**1485**  
Leonardo Da Vinci's ornithopter



**1783**  
Montgolfier brothers hot air balloon



**1903**  
Wright brothers first aeroplane



**1921**  
Bessie Coleman pilot licence

**1927**  
Charles Lindbergh first flight across the Atlantic



**1932**  
Amelia Earhart transatlantic flight

**1961**  
Yuri Gagarin first person in space



**1969**  
Neil Armstrong first person on the moon

**1976**  
Concorde

