

Grade 4

Social Science : History

Lesson 8 : Transport Through Time

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Transport in the Air

1. Balloons and Airships

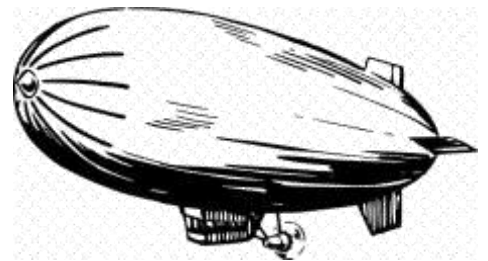
Hot Air Balloons

- The hot air balloon was the first aircraft to carry humans in the air.
- It had a special burner to put hot air into the balloon.
- Hot air balloons use hot air to lift them above the ground.
- A few passengers travel in a basket under the balloon.
- The wind blows the hot air balloon.



Airships

- An airship is like a hot air balloon with an engine.
- Instead of hot air, airships used a gas called hydrogen which is lighter than air.
- The passengers travel in a carriage inside or under the airship
- Airships could travel long distances.
- The Hindenburg was the most famous airship. It crashed in 1937.



2. The Wright Brothers and the First Aeroplane

- In 1903 the Wright brothers made the first proper air flight in an aeroplane powered by an engine.
- Their plane was called the “Flyer” and flew only 37 metres. The flight lasted one minute!



- They improved the plane by making better wings, propellers, improve steering and a lighter engine. The new planes could fly for longer and also higher.
- In 1909, Wilbur Wright flew around the Statue of Liberty in New York.

3. Modern Forms of Transport

Jet Planes

- Jet engines are a strong type of engine used to make things move fast.
- Planes that have jet engines are called jet planes.
- Jet planes can fly faster and higher and can carry hundreds of passengers.
- The world's largest jet plane is the Airbus A380.



Helicopters

- Helicopters were invented over 70 years ago and were first used by the armies.
- Helicopters do not need an airport or runway.
- There are many uses of helicopters :
 - Police use helicopters to catch criminals.
 - They are used as ambulances.
 - Television stations use them to cover sporting and other important events.



Activity 1

1. How did the hot air balloon and airship stay in the sky?
2. Where did the passengers sit in the hot air balloon and the airship?
3. How far was the first plane flight?
4. Name 3 things that the Wright brothers did to improve their plane.
5. Where did Wilbur Wright fly in front of many people?
6. Give 2 reasons why people may choose air transport instead of land or water transport.
7. Name 2 bad things about air transport.