



AIRPLANES



Talk About It

Have you ever seen airplanes like these? Would you like to ride in one?



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Vocabulary

glider headlines
unstable hoisting
wingspan assured
applauded

Word Parts

Inflectional Endings

When *-ed* is added to the end of a verb, the tense changes to the past.

The past tense of *applaud* is *applauded*.



TAKE OFF

by Terry Eager

Every day thousands of people fly through the sky in airplanes. It is easy to take flying for granted, but it took many years and many inventors to master flight.

Early Ideas

About 1500 Leonardo da Vinci, an Italian artist, made sketches of flying machines with wings that flapped like a bird's. In 1783 the Montgolfier brothers made a balloon out of linen cloth and paper. A controlled fire filled the balloon with hot air, which made it rise. Other inventors tried using hydrogen to make their balloons rise. Hydrogen is a gas that is lighter than air.

In 1804 Sir George Cayley made the first successful **glider**. A glider is an aircraft without engines. Although Cayley's first glider could not carry a passenger, his later gliders could.

Over the years better gliders were built. They were still **unstable**, though, and hard to control. It was the Wright brothers who figured out how to steer a glider.

Great Developments

In 1903 the Wright brothers built their first airplane. It had a gasoline engine and a **wingspan** of 40 feet, 4 inches. Only a few inventors **applauded** the Wright brothers' success. Other inventors continued working to perfect the flying machine.

Newspaper **headlines** cheered Charles "Lucky" Lindbergh in 1927. He was the first to fly alone across the Atlantic Ocean. Amelia Earhart became the first woman to do the same thing, in 1932.

Jets

In the 1950s American engineers designed passenger jet planes. By 1970 the world's first jumbo jet could carry more than 400 people. Today jets can fly farther and faster than ever.

Flight has come a long way since the days of **hoisting** a glider to the top of a sand dune. We owe our thanks to those who risked their lives when no one was **assured** of success.



Reread for Comprehension



Monitor Comprehension

Author's Perspective As you check your comprehension, it is important to evaluate how an author feels about a topic. Using an Author's Perspective Map can help you understand his or her point of view. Reread this selection and think about the author's perspective.

