

## Lesson 13 Early Flight and Famous People

We are learning to:

- find out about the lives of people involved in flight in history;
- evaluate the reliability of sources of information;
- decide on important events leading to the development of today's air travel; and
- appreciate the role that engineers have played in the development of flight.

### **The Wright Brothers and Harry Ferguson**

- Research the Wright Brothers and Harry Ferguson.
- What do they have in common?
- Where is Harry Ferguson from?
- What connection does Harry Ferguson have to flight?
- What else is Harry Ferguson famous for?

### **Bombardier Aerospace, Belfast**

Research the Short Brothers who founded the company in 1908.

When did the business move to Belfast?

In your research include

- 4 sentences about the Short Brothers and their contribution to flight;
- A picture and description of an aircraft manufactured by Short Brothers plc (Shorts);
- A list of aircraft manufactured (made) by Shorts and Bombardier Aerospace;
- An explanation of how Shorts became Bombardier Aerospace, Belfast;
- Three facts about Bombardier Aerospace.

### **Amelia Earhart**

Resource I

Resource B blank world map

- Use atlases or the internet to find the places that Amelia landed on her round- the-world trip.
- Mark these places on the blank world map (Resource B) and plot Amelia's route.

- Research Amelia's connection with Northern Ireland (in 1932, Amelia attempted to fly from America to Paris. After fifteen hours, due to strong winds, she landed in a field in Culmore, County Derry/Londonderry).
- Create a newspaper article about Amelia's plane landing. Include quotes from witnesses, eg the farmer who owned the field.

## **More Early Inventors and Pioneers**

### Research

#### **Otto Lilienthal**

Otto Lilienthal was a German engineer who was fascinated by the idea of flight. He studied aerodynamics and designed a glider. He studied how birds fly.

Otto wrote a book on aerodynamics, published in 1889. The Wright Brothers based their designs on ideas in his book. After more than 2500 flights, Otto died when he lost control of his glider in a strong wind.

#### **Samuel P. Langley**

Samuel Langley was an astronomer, who believed that we needed power to fly.

He built a model of an aeroplane, called the aerodrome, with a steam-powered engine. In 1891, his model flew for three quarters of a mile before running out of fuel. Langley received a \$50,000 grant to build a full-sized aerodrome. However, it was too heavy to fly and crashed. He gave up trying to fly. He contributed to flight by trying to add a power source to a glider.

#### **Octave Chanute**

Octave Chanute published Progress in Flying Machines in 1894. This book analysed all the technical knowledge he could find about aviation. It included work from all the world's aviation pioneers. The Wright Brothers used this book as a basis for experiments.

Add these early inventors and pioneers to the class timeline.