



BALLOON FLIGHT



By Sara McGibbon

Introduction

- Today I'm going to talk to you about hot air balloons. Did you know that they were actually the first mode of flight created?
- Hot air balloons are mainly used for fun and opportunities to see amazing views.
- However many balloonists enjoy competitive sporting events and attempting to set new records.



5-Facts on the History of Balloon Flight

1. The earliest use of hot air to make objects fly was made in Ancient China. Paper lanterns were sent into the air for signalling.
2. In 1783 the first passengers to take a ride in a hot air balloon were a sheep named Montauciel (*"climb to the sky"*), a duck and a rooster. All the animals came back safely, with some excellent stories to tell about their trip - *Baa! Quack! Cock-a-doodle-doo!*
3. The first manned flight in a hot air balloon with people as passengers was later that same year in Paris.
4. Both armies in World War I used hot air balloons for military observation
5. In 2002 an American millionaire, Steve Fossett flies around the world in a hot air balloon called the Spirit of Freedom. He flies for 13 days and 22,100 miles. It is the longest ever sole balloon flight.

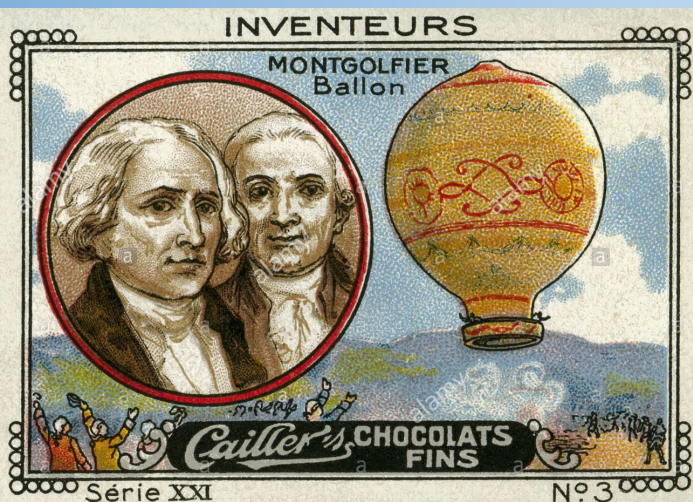


4-Pieces of Equipment

1. Nylon and Dracon (polyester) are used for the envelope of the hot air balloon. The envelope is the balloon part which holds the heated air.
2. Attached to the envelope is the basket used for carrying passengers which is made from willow and rattan weaved together.
3. The burner is powered by propane gas and heats the air inside the balloon that causes it to rise. Many balloons use one burner, but some have two so that the pilot can use one or more at a time to vary the intensity of heat.
4. Most hot air balloons are made with old technology but new modern balloons have a GPS tracking device so that the ground crew can track the speed and direction of the balloon.

3-Facts on the Inventor

1. French brothers, Joseph and Jacques Etienne Montgolfier invented the hot air balloon.
2. They created the basic design of their hot air balloon “Globe aérostatique”, which was further improved to be used in experiments of the upper atmosphere.
3. Joseph was born in 1740 and had a true passion for the machinery progress, what was all the rage at the time. With Etienne, his younger brother, they had often dreamed of the human flight.



2-Amazing Facts

1. DID YOU KNOW you can't steer a hot air balloon? The pilots are at the mercy of the wind direction. Because wind speed is different depending on how high up in the air you are, the pilots listen carefully to the weather report, and turn the burner on and off to keep the balloons hovering at the right speed.
2. Hot air balloons can fly to amazing heights, the world record is over 21,000 metres! It's tough to breathe up there so oxygen is needed from around 5,000 metres.

1-Disaster

1. In Luxor Egypt 26th February 2013 there was a disaster with a hot air balloon. There was a fire in the basket caused by a leaking fuel line. This is the deadliest ballooning accident in avioning history with a 19 deaths and 2 injured.





The end

