

Aviation History Quiz

Aviation History · Answer Key · 25 Questions

1. On what date did the Wright brothers achieve the first powered, controlled flight of a heavier-than-air aircraft?

- A) December 17, 1903**
- B) July 4, 1910
- C) August 12, 1899
- D) January 1, 1905

2. Who was the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean?

- A) Bessie Coleman
- B) Amelia Earhart**
- C) Harriet Quimby
- D) Jacqueline Cochran

3. What was the name of the aircraft Charles Lindbergh flew during his historic non-stop solo flight from New York to Paris?

- A) The Flyer
- B) The Spirit of St. Louis**
- C) The Golden Eagle
- D) The Atlantic Clipper

4. In which city did the Wright brothers conduct their first successful powered flight?

- A) Kitty Hawk, North Carolina**
- B) Dayton, Ohio
- C) Washington D.C.
- D) San Francisco, California

5. What type of engine powered the first jet-engine aircraft, the Heinkel He 178, which flew in 1939?

- A) Turbojet**
- B) Piston Engine
- C) Turboprop
- D) Ramjet

6. Which famous pilot was known as 'The Red Baron' during World War I?

- A) Eddie Rickenbacker
- B) Manfred von Richthofen**
- C) Roland Garros
- D) Oswald Boelcke

7. What was the first commercial passenger airline in the world, which began service in 1914?

A) Pan American Airways

B) St. Petersburg-Tampa Airboat Line

C) Qantas

D) British Airways

8. Chuck Yeager became the first person to break the sound barrier in which aircraft?

A) X-1

B) X-15

C) F-86 Sabre

D) P-51 Mustang

9. What was the name of the first human-powered aircraft to cross the English Channel in 1979?

A) Gossamer Albatross

B) Daedalus

C) Solar Impulse

D) Cycle-Plane

10. Which company produced the Boeing 747, famously known as the 'Jumbo Jet'?

A) Airbus

B) Boeing

C) McDonnell Douglas

D) Lockheed

11. Who is often credited with inventing the first practical hot air balloon in 1783?

A) The Montgolfier brothers

B) The Wright brothers

C) Leonardo da Vinci

D) George Cayley

12. The Concorde was famous for being a supersonic passenger airliner. What does 'supersonic' mean?

A) Flying slower than sound

B) Flying faster than the speed of sound

C) Flying in space

D) Flying using only solar power

13. What was the primary purpose of the 'Hindenburg' airship before it caught fire in 1937?

A) Military surveillance

B) Luxury passenger travel

C) Cargo transport

D) Weather research

14. Which famous inventor sketched designs for flying machines, including a 'helicopter' concept, in the 15th century?

A) Isaac Newton

B) Leonardo da Vinci

C) Galileo Galilei

D) Nicolaus Copernicus

15. What was the primary difference between early airplanes and gliders?

A) Gliders have no engines

B) Gliders have four wings

C) Airplanes cannot land

D) Gliders are made of metal

16. In the history of aviation, what were 'barnstormers'?

A) Pilots who performed stunts at fairs

B) Farmers who flew planes

C) Manufacturers of airplane parts

D) Military training officers

17. The 'Flying Fortress' was a nickname for which World War II bomber aircraft?

A) B-17

B) B-24 Liberator

C) Lancaster

D) B-29 Superfortress

18. What was the first aircraft to fly around the world non-stop without refueling in 1986?

A) Voyager

B) Spirit of St. Louis

C) Enola Gay

D) Global Flyer

19. Which country operated the world's first scheduled international commercial flight route?

A) United States

- B) Australia
- C) Germany
- D) France

20. Who was the first African American woman to hold an international pilot's license?

A) Mae Jemison

B) Bessie Coleman

- C) Willie Brown
- D) Hazel Ying Lee

21. What device helps pilots navigate by providing altitude information based on air pressure?

A) Altimeter

- B) Compass
- C) Radar
- D) Speedometer

22. Which of these inventions made it possible for pilots to communicate with the ground during flight?

A) Radio technology

- B) The telegraph
- C) Signal flares
- D) Morse code lamps

23. What year did the first commercial flight of the Boeing 747 take place?

A) 1960

B) 1970

- C) 1980
- D) 1990

24. What material was mostly used to cover the frames of early 20th-century aircraft?

A) Canvas/Fabric

- B) Plastic
- C) Stainless steel
- D) Carbon fiber

25. Before jet engines were common, what was the primary method of propulsion for aircraft?

A) Propellers

B) Steam engines

C) Rubber bands

D) Compressed air