

Aviation Pioneers Trivia: Questions, Answers, and Facts  
Printable Trivia Pack

Aviation Pioneers trivia highlights the inventors, pilots, and record-setters who shaped the earliest eras of human flight. It spans famous firsts, daring long-distance journeys, and the technological advances that transformed aviation from fragile prototypes into a global force. Expect a mix of easy, family-friendly, funny, and challenging questions rooted in real aviation history.

HARD AVIATION PIONEERS TRIVIA

1. Which exact U.S. patent number was granted to the Wright brothers for their flying machine in 1906?

Answer: U.S. Patent 821393

2. Backed by Alexander Graham Bell, what aviation group was formed in 1907?

Answer: Aerial Experiment Association

3. Who became the first person to die in an airplane crash in 1908?

Answer: Thomas Selfridge

4. At what location did the Wright airplane crash occur in which Thomas Selfridge was a passenger and Orville Wright was flying?

Answer: Fort Myer

5. Who won the 1910 London to Manchester air race?

Answer: Louis Paulhan

6. Which aviator became the first woman to receive a pilot license in 1910?

Answer: Raymonde de Laroche

7. Raymonde de Laroche's pilot license was issued by which organization?

Answer: Aero-Club de France

8. The first U.S. international air meet in 1910 took place at what field near Los Angeles?

Answer: Dominguez Field

9. Which Wright team pilot set an altitude record of more than 11,000 feet in 1910?

Answer: Arch Hoxsey

10. Name one of the pilots who took part in the 1910 Dominguez Field meet: specifically, which pilot fits that clue?

Answer: Didier Masson

11. Which early French aviation pioneer was also an aircraft designer, identified here by the surname Esnault-Pelterie?

Answer: Robert Esnault-Pelterie

12. Which pioneer made a powered hop in his monoplane in France in 1906?

Answer: Traian Vuia

13. Before 1910, which French aviation pioneer was flying Voisin aircraft?

Answer: L^on Delagrange

14. Which aviation figure co-founded an early aircraft manufacturing company with his brother Charles Voisin?

Answer: Gabriel Voisin

#### FUNNY AVIATION PIONEERS TRIVIA

1. In 1903, the Wright Flyer began its big moment from what very un-glamorous launch setup instead of a runway?

Answer: a wooden rail

2. The Wright brothers' first powered flight covered a distance that modern travelers might call a warm-up. How far was it?

Answer: 120 feet

3. Blink and you'd miss it: how long did the first powered Wright flight last?

Answer: 12 seconds

4. Which aviation pioneer wore the nickname that sounds like a crown and a wind tunnel: "the Glider King"?

Answer: Otto Lilienthal

5. Before airplanes made him famous, Alberto Santos-Dumont was already turning heads in Paris with what kind of flying craft?

Answer: dirigibles

6. Which pre-World War I pilot was known as a showman for stunt flying, basically making the sky his stage?

Answer: Lincoln Beachey

7. Harriet Quimby brought serious style to the cockpit by often flying in what distinctive outfit?

Answer: a plum-colored satin flying suit

8. Bessie Coleman had a nickname fit for aviation royalty. What was it?

Answer: Queen Bess

9. The Hughes H-4 Hercules had a nickname so catchy it nearly stole the spotlight from the airplane itself. What was it?

Answer: the Spruce Goose

10. Which human-powered aircraft crossed the English Channel in 1979, proving leg day could also be flight day?

Answer: the Gossamer Albatross

11. What prize did the Gossamer Albatross win for its pedal-powered English Channel crossing?

Answer: the Kremer Prize

12. Who led the team that built the Gossamer Albatross, the airplane that made bicycle muscles internationally relevant?

Answer: Paul MacCready

13. When the Gossamer Albatross crossed the Channel in 1979, who was the pilot doing the pedaling?

Answer: Bryan Allen

#### FUN AVIATION PIONEERS TRIVIA

1. About how wide was the Wright brothers' 1903 airplane from wingtip to wingtip?

Answer: About 40 feet.

2. The Wright brothers' first airplane ran on an engine rated at how many horsepower?

Answer: 12 horsepower.

3. On December 17, 1903, how long did the Wright brothers' longest flight of the day last?

Answer: 59 seconds.

4. How many successful Wright flights took place on their breakthrough day in 1903?

Answer: Four flights.

5. Which aircraft nabbed an aviation prize in Paris in 1906 for Santos-Dumont?

Answer: The 14-bis.

6. Santos-Dumont brought early aviation fame from which country of birth?

Answer: Brazil.

7. In 1909, Glenn Curtiss helped launch which company with Herring in its name?

Answer: The Herring-Curtiss Company.

8. Glenn Curtiss later helped form what company whose name practically announces both wings and engines?

Answer: The Curtiss Aeroplane and Motor Company.

9. The first shipboard airplane takeoff in the U.S. launched from which vessel?

Answer: The cruiser USS Birmingham.

10. Who made the first successful airplane landing on a ship in 1911?

Answer: Eugene Ely.

11. When Eugene Ely pulled off that 1911 ship landing, which ship served as his floating runway?

Answer: The USS Pennsylvania.

12. True or false: John Stringfellow achieved a brief powered model flight indoors in 1848.?

Answer: True

13. Octave Chanute's 1896 glider experiments were carried out near which Indiana location on the Lake Michigan shore?

Answer: Miller Beach, Indiana.

#### AVIATION PIONEERS FAMILY TRIVIA

1. Before they built airplanes, what kind of business did the Wright brothers run?

Answer: The Wright brothers ran a bicycle business.

2. At which windy place near Kitty Hawk did the Wright brothers test their gliders?

Answer: Kill Devil Hills

3. After their early glider work, where in Ohio did the Wright brothers later do test flying?

Answer: Huffman Prairie

4. Which famous monument did Wilbur Wright fly around during New York demonstrations in 1909?

Answer: The Statue of Liberty

5. Who became the first person to fly across the English Channel in 1909?

Answer: Louis Blériot

6. What was the name of the monoplane Louis Blériot used to cross the English Channel?

Answer: The Blériot XI

7. Who was the first African American woman to earn a pilot's license in 1921?

Answer: Bessie Coleman

8. Bessie Coleman earned her pilot's license in which country?

Answer: France

9. Which pilot made the first solo flight around the world in 1933?

Answer: Wiley Post

10. What was the name of the airplane Wiley Post was famous for flying?

Answer: Winnie Mae

11. Who set a round-the-world flight record in 1938?

Answer: Howard Hughes

12. Howard Hughes both designed and flew which aircraft?

Answer: The H-1 Racer

#### EASY AVIATION PIONEERS TRIVIA

1. Who made the first powered airplane flight on December 17, 1903?

Answer: Orville Wright

2. At what North Carolina location did the Wright brothers make their first powered flights?

Answer: Kitty Hawk, North Carolina

3. Which Wright brother was Orville's aviation partner?

Answer: Wilbur Wright

4. Who completed the first solo nonstop flight across the Atlantic Ocean in 1927?

Answer: Charles Lindbergh

5. What was the name of Lindbergh's 1927 airplane?

Answer: Spirit of St. Louis

6. Which famous aviator disappeared in 1937 during an attempt to fly around the world?

Answer: Amelia Earhart

7. Who became the first American woman licensed as a pilot in 1911?

Answer: Harriet Quimby

8. Who was the first pilot to exceed the speed of sound in level flight in 1947?

Answer: Chuck Yeager

9. What aircraft did Chuck Yeager fly when he broke the sound barrier?

Answer: Bell X-1

10. Which aviation pioneer made a celebrated public powered flight in Paris in 1906?

Answer: Alberto Santos-Dumont

11. Which German glider pioneer died in 1896 after a crash?

Answer: Otto Lilienthal

12. Who won the Gordon Bennett Cup air race in 1909?

Answer: Glenn Curtiss

13. In what French city was the 1909 Gordon Bennett Cup race held?

Answer: Reims, France

Source: <https://triviagong.com/themes/aviation-pioneers>