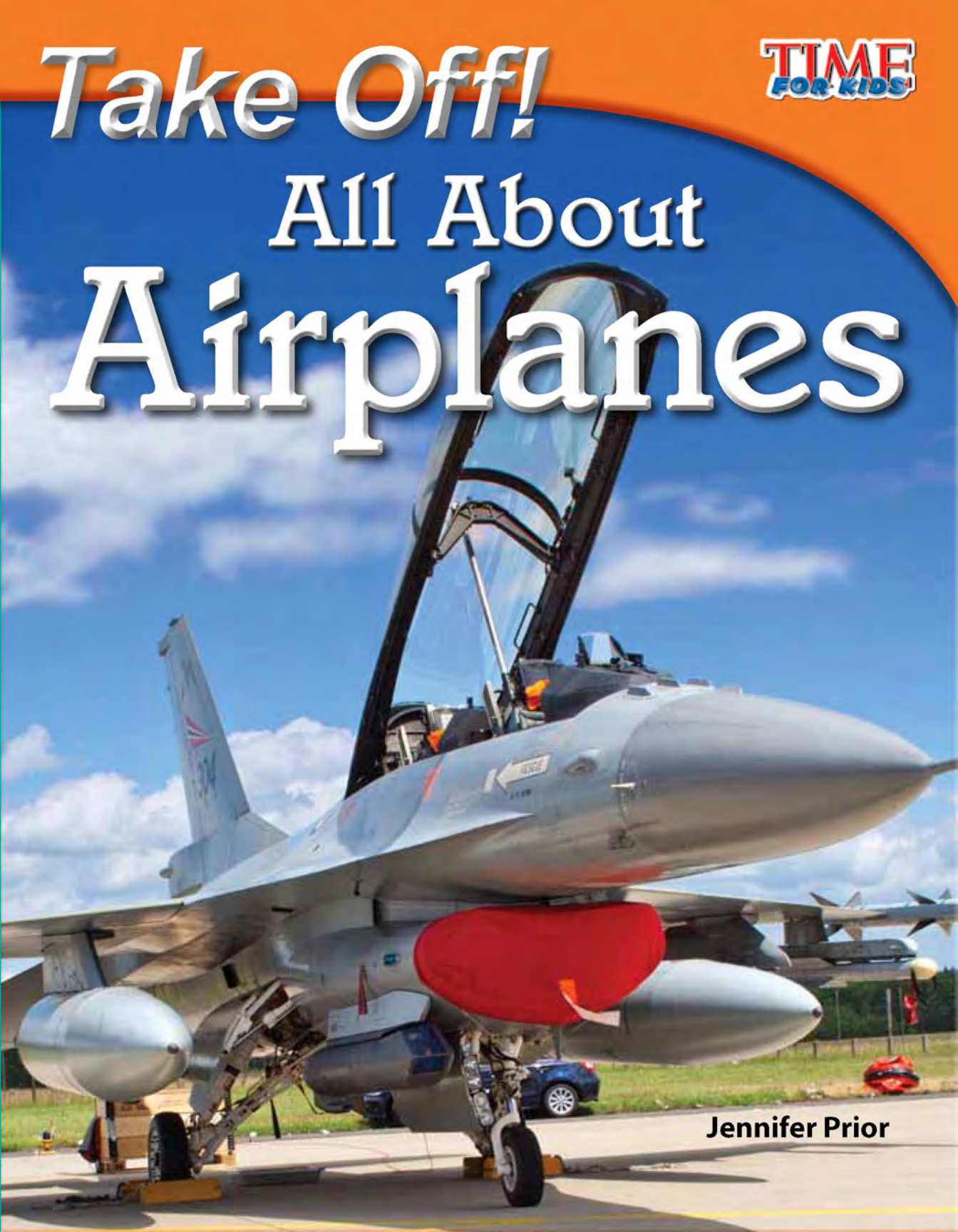
Take Off!

TIME FOR KIDS

All About Airplanes



Jennifer Prior

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Airplane

Airplane, airplane, up so high,
Flying through the clear blue sky,
Floating on the gentle breeze,
Soaring, soaring, with such ease.



1910 Bristol kite wing replica ▲

Over 700 million people fly in the United States every year.



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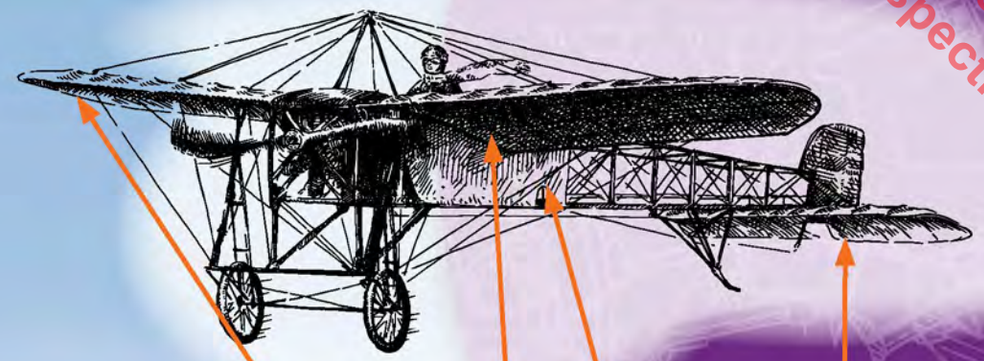
A Brief History of Planes

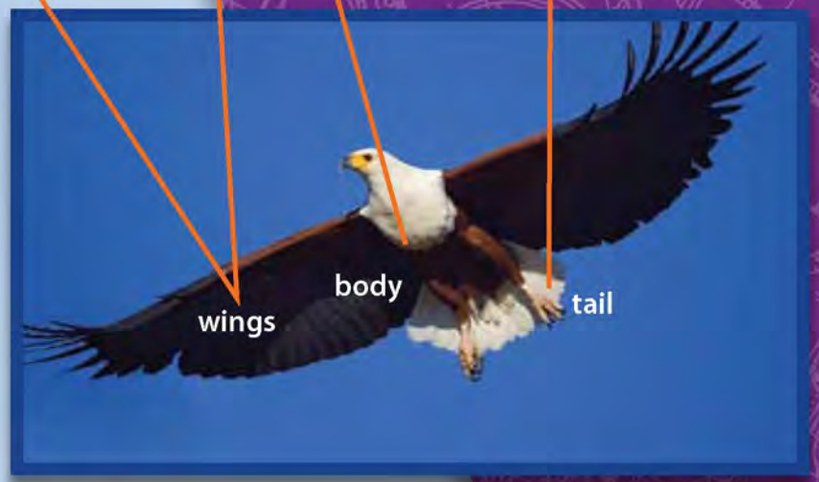
Have you ever watched a bird and wished you could fly? It seems people have always dreamed of flying. In fact, as early as the 1800s, people tried to make flying machines.

So, what would be a good **model** for a plane? You might think a bird's body would be the best model. Many people tried this. However, machines made in this way did not work.

What Is It?

Model is a word with many meanings. Here, it means an object that is used as a plan for something else that will be built.





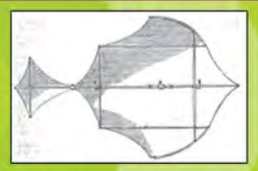
Flight Time Line

November 21, 1783



Jacques Alexandre César Charles and M.N. Robert fly in the first hydrogen balloon.

1853



The first George Cayley glider is flown.

July 2, 1900



The first zeppelin is flown.

December 17, 1903



The Wright Brothers make the first flight in an airplane.

November 13, 1907



Paul Cornu is the first to fly a manned helicopter.

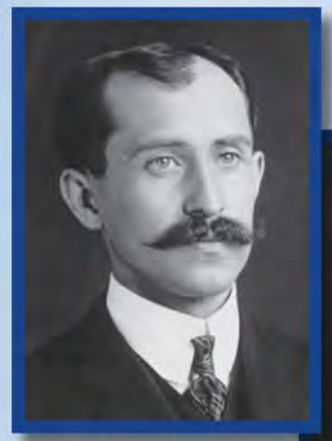
July 25, 1909



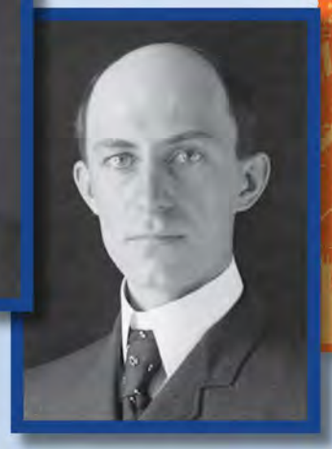
Louis Blériot is the first to fly across the English Channel.

The Wright Brothers

It was two brothers who finally made people's dream of flying come true. Orville and Wilbur Wright were the first to build a powered plane that could really fly. First, they had some problems to solve. They needed to make an engine's weight light enough to get off the ground. Then they had to figure out how to keep the plane in the air once it got there!



▲ Orville Wright



▲ Wilbur Wright

Who Set the Record?

Both Orville and Wilbur flew that day in 1903, each taking two turns. The fourth and longest flight, 852 feet in 59 seconds, was flown by Wilbur.

In December of 1903, Orville flew the first powered plane. He did not fly very far. And, he did not fly very high. But, he did fly! In later years, the airplane was improved. It was able to carry more people. It could also fly farther.

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The First to Fly?

The Wright Brothers were not the first to soar through the air. Hot-air balloons and gliders had been flown before. The brothers were the first to fly an airplane that was powered, had a person inside it, was heavier than air, and was controllable. That was an amazing feat!

▼ Orville Wright flew the first successful manned flight in 1903.



Flight Time Line

October 1909	September 1911	December 10, 1911	March 1, 1912	June 15, 1921	May 9, 1926
Elise de Laroche becomes the first female pilot.	The first airmail in the United States is delivered.	Cal Rodgers makes the first flight across a continent.	Albert Berry makes the first parachute jump from a powered airplane.	Bessie Coleman becomes the first African-American pilot.	Richard Byrd and Floyd Bennett are the first to fly over the North Pole.