



(400-200 BCE)

### Chinese kites

Chinese kites were one of humanity's earliest attempts to copy bird flight.



(1452-1519)

### Leonardo da Vinci

Italian painter Leonardo da Vinci designed ornithopters – flying machines with flapping wings. Sadly, da Vinci realised these vehicles would never work if they were actually made.



(1853)

### George Cayley

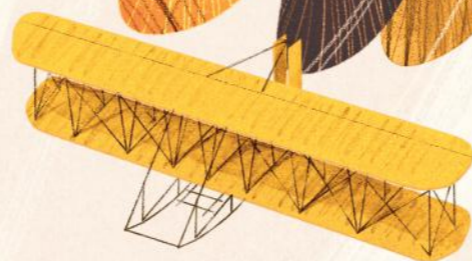
English inventor George Cayley created the first glider to carry a person. After Cayley's coachman was forced to test the contraption, he apparently resigned, saying he was hired to drive, not to fly!



(1903)

### The Wright brothers

Partly inspired by pigeons, the American brothers Orville and Wilbur Wright designed and flew the first successful aeroplane.



### Did you know?

A sheep, a cockerel and a duck float up over Versailles in France. No, that isn't the beginning of a joke but a test flight for Joseph-Michel and Jacques-Étienne Montgolfier's hot-air balloon invention in 1783.



The first passenger planes were created in the 1910s but flying only became more widely affordable in 1950s America.

(The future)

### Lockheed Stratoliner

The Lockheed Stratoliner is based on the bar-tailed godwit, the bird that holds the record for the longest non-stop flight, from Alaska to Australia. Though only at design stage, this plane may one day complete similarly long journeys without refuelling.



(2013)

### The Airbus A350 XWB

The Airbus A350 XWB has curved wingtips like a bird to help it fly faster.



(1969)

### Concorde

Concorde was the first passenger plane to fly faster than the speed of sound (1,235kmph or 767mph).



(1914-18 and 1939-45)

### World Wars

During the World Wars, technology improved dramatically! Planes became faster and more adept at manoeuvring.

# Plane Talking

For thousands of years humans have looked up to the sky for inspiration. We've built aircraft to imitate birds since 400 BCE and even now engineers are learning from the natural world.