



time machine: lindbergh flies again

airdates: **november 11–12**

In 1927, Charles Lindbergh became an international hero by flying solo over the Atlantic Ocean. Lindbergh's amazing accomplishment gave him a permanent place in history and made him a cultural icon. To celebrate the seventy-fifth anniversary of Lindbergh's nonstop flight from New York to Paris, his grandson, Erik Lindbergh, has decided to retrace his grandfather's path, recreating the historic flight. Today, three-quarters of a century after Lindbergh's feat, flying solo across the Atlantic in a single-engine plane is still a dangerous and difficult task.

This special program looks back on Charles Lindbergh's historic flight and follows the preparations for Erik Lindbergh's 2002 flight to commemorate his grandfather's achievement.

national standards

This teacher's guide fulfills the following National Standards for History for grades 5–12 as developed by the National Center for History in the Schools: Historical Thinking Standards 1 (chronological thinking), 2 (historical comprehension), 3 (historical analysis and interpretation), and 4 (historical research capabilities) for United States History (Eras 7 and 10).

curriculum links

Lindbergh Flies Again is suitable for use in middle school and high school classes in U.S. history, aeronautic history, American culture, and science and technology.

objectives

Students will map the historic flight of Charles Lindbergh and interpret its historical significance. They will follow the intense preparations made by both Lindberghs for their respective flights. They will identify and analyze many of the changes in aeronautic technology between 1927 and the present.

discussion questions

1. Charles Lindbergh is one of the most famous figures of the twentieth century. What is his claim to fame?
 2. Many argue that Lindbergh's flight is the single greatest achievement of the twentieth century. Do you agree? What other events might also be considered the single greatest achievement?
 3. What difficulties did Charles face as a child? Why did he have trouble fitting in?
 4. What was the Orteig Prize?
 5. Charles was not the only pilot vying for the Orteig Prize. What happened to the other prize seekers?
 6. The press was a constant presence in Charles's life. Why was the press so interested in Charles Lindbergh and his exploits?
 7. How did Charles Lindbergh's feat change his life?
 8. Why did Erik Lindbergh decide to recreate his grandfather's famous flight?
 9. What risks did Erik face in recreating his grandfather's historic flight?
 10. How are the original Spirit of St. Louis and the New Spirit of St. Louis different? How are they the same?
- (continued)

- How did the Lindbergh's each raise the money necessary for the construction of their planes?
- Although there have been advances in aviation technology, flying solo across the Atlantic in a single-engine plane is still quite dangerous. How did Erik Lindbergh prepare for the dangers of his flight?
- Erik Lindbergh has rheumatoid arthritis, a debilitating disease. How did Erik overcome this disease?
- What is the legacy of Charles Lindbergh? How does his grandson's flight help you understand his legacy?

activities

- Research the life of Charles Lindbergh. Create an illustrated timeline of important events in his professional and personal life. What event happened in his personal life that rivaled the publicity of his professional life?
- On a world map, trace Charles Lindbergh's transatlantic flight route.
- Using the medium of your choice, create a replica of The Spirit of St. Louis.
- Create a poster celebrating Erik Lindbergh's flight, or create a poster celebrating the history and future of flight.

vocabulary

aerodynamics ■ (n.) the scientific study of the motion of gases (especially air) and their effects on objects moving through them

arduous ■ (adj.) demanding great effort or labor; difficult

avionics ■ (n.) the science and technology of electronics and of the development of electronic devices as applied to aeronautics

deteriorate ■ (v.) to weaken or disintegrate; to decay

hazardous ■ (adj.) full of danger; perilous

icon ■ (n.) an important and enduring symbol

initiative ■ (n.) the ability to begin or to follow through with a plan or task

innovation ■ (n.) something that is newly introduced

isolation ■ (n.) separation from other people or places

meticulous (adj.) extremely careful and precise

prosthesis ■ (n.) an artificial device used to replace a missing body part

rudimentary ■ (adj.) relating to basic facts or principles

resources

websites&books

web sites

www.historychannel.com/lindbergh
Lindbergh Flies Again companion Web site on HistoryChannel.com

www.nasm.edu/galleries/archives/LINHINold.htm
The National Air and Space Museum commemoration of Charles Lindbergh's flight

www.xprize.org
X Prize Foundation's feature on Erik Lindbergh's 2002 flight

www.healthtalk.com/rain/path/lindbergh
Interview with Erik Lindbergh on the Rheumatoid Arthritis Information Network

books

Berg, Scott. *Lindbergh*. New York: Berkeley Publishing Group, 1999. Reading level: Adult.

Chadwick, Roxanne. Anne Morrow *Lindbergh: Pilot and Poet*. Minneapolis: Lerner Publishing Group, 1991. Reading level: Ages 12 and up.

Collins, David R. *Charles Lindbergh: Hero Pilot*. Illustrated by Victor Mays. Danbury, Conn.: Chelsea House Publishers, 1991. Reading level: Ages 9–12.

Lindbergh, Charles A. *The Spirit of St. Louis*. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1994.

