

## Eyes in the Skies Teachers' Notes

- The Wright brothers conducted the first powered flight, in December 1903 in North Carolina. There was also a Wright sister who worked with them, but she has been largely written out of history.
- Early planes were built from wood and cloth with little holding them together.
- Early aviation was very dangerous and many early aviators were essentially engineers. Many died testing their designs and the national media encouraged aviators to be the first to complete various flights (look at Daily Mail).
- As WWI began in August 1914, Britain sent planes to France to be used for observation purposes over the enemy trenches. The Royal Flying Corps (RFC) and Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS) had few planes between them, but during the course of the war huge numbers of planes were built (some in Glasgow at Dalmuir) and aviation technology advanced dramatically.
- In 1918 the RAF became the third defence force as the RFC and RNAS were combined.
- Some of the engineers and aviators who took aviation forward were from Glasgow - for example, Frank Bramwell (designed the Bristol Scout, an iconic WWI fighter) and David Henderson (known as 'the father of the RAF').

### Some online sources for teachers:

<http://earlyaviationpioneers.com/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_aviation\\_pioneers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_aviation_pioneers)

<https://www.wai.org/pioneers/100womenscript>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_aviation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_aviation)

<https://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-29612707>

<https://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/world-war-one/aerial-warfare-and-world-war-one/aircraft-and-world-war-one/>



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