

SOLAR FLIGHT (14:53 – 18:00)

The Solar Impulse 2 hopes to achieve the first circumnavigation of the Earth by a piloted fixed-wing aircraft using solar power.

Focus Questions

- When was the first successful airplane built and flown? Who built it?
- The plane featured in the story is called Solar Impulse 2 – how do you think it got its name?
- What do you think might be some features of the Solar Impulse 2 that are different or similar to a regular plane?
- Why would anyone want to attempt to fly a solar powered aircraft around the world?
- Will solar planes be a common form of air transport in the future do you think?

The following figures and information are from the report – what do you think they refer to? Try to write questions.

- **25 days –**
- **17,000 –**
- **72 metres –**
- **2.3 tonnes –**
- **Same as a wardrobe –**

**Listening A**

Check your responses in the task above

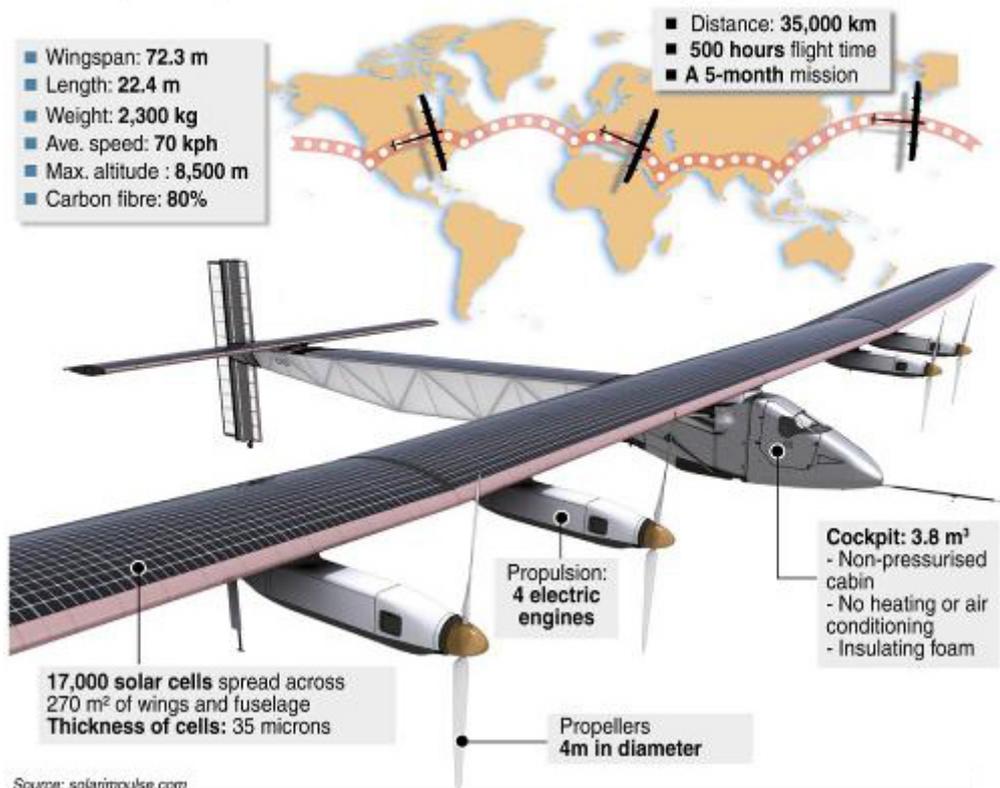
Listening B

Before watching the report again, circle the correct answer

1. The first successful airplane was built and flown in ... a. 1803. b. 1903.
2. The Solar Impulse 2 will fly ... a. in stages. b. non-stop.
3. It will ... a. not use any jet fuel. b. use only small amount of jet fuel.
4. The solar panels are on its ... a. fuselage. b. wings.
5. It will fly ... a. during the day only. b. during the day and night.
6. Compared to other planes, the solar plane is ... a. much cheaper. b. much more expensive.

Solar Impulse 2 ready for round-the-world flight

The solar-powered plane is scheduled to take to the air at the beginning of March, 2015



Listening A

First watch the report and answer the questions below

Table 1	
awkward, tending to drop or break things	
beginning of something	
cause something to start quickly	
complete change in the way people live, work or do something, transformation	
device with two or more blades that turn quickly and cause a ship or aircraft to move	
discover, work out	
earth, world	
edge, limit	
finally, at some later time	
flat piece of wood, glass or other material	
flying	
freight, shipment, something carried from one place to another by a boat or airplane	
greatly, significantly, considerably	
where the pilot or driver sits in a boat or airplane	

Table 2	
A	globe (n)
B	clumsy (adj)
C	push the boundaries (n)
D	figure out (v)
E	dawn (n)
F	propeller (n)
G	airborne (adj)
H	panel (n)
I	dramatically (adv)
J	eventually (adv)
K	cargo (n)
L	cockpit (n)
M	kick-start (v)
N	revolution (n)

Listening B

Before watching the report again, try to answer the questions

globe	dawn	dramatically	kick-start
clumsy	propeller	eventually	revolution
boundary	airborne	cargo	
figure out	panel	cockpit	

1. After 3 unsuccessful landing attempts, the pilot was able to fix the problem and land the plane safely.
2. After the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the doors of most commercial planes were thoroughly examined by engineers to make sure they were secure.
3. Although less common now for larger aircraft, many smaller planes still use rather than jet engines.
4. Aviation engineers say the new light, tough and heat resistant material will the aviation industry by allowing lighter and more efficient engines to be manufactured. Planes will be able to fly much farther and burn less fuel.
5. In 1986, The Rutan Model 76 Voyager was the first aircraft to fly around the without stopping or refuelling.
6. In a move designed to the country's private aviation sector, flight restrictions that require pilots in China to obtain permission well in advance of flights were eased.
7. People have always been fascinated by space exploration and whether other life forms might exist beyond the of our universe.
8. SpaceX is a company founded in 2002 to revolutionize space technology. Its CEO, Elon Musk, said recently that he believes we are at the of a new era in commercial space exploration and soon his company would begin flying people to Mars.
9. The Antonov An-225 Mriya, a plane, is the largest airplane in the world. The largest passenger jet is the Airbus A380.
10. The boy was very and was often falling over and bruising his knees.
11. The flight between the two cities was very short and the plane was only for around 10 minutes.
12. The front driver side door had to be replaced after being damaged in a car accident.
13. The latest Mars space mission collected rock and dust samples to help scientists try and if the planet was once covered by water.
14. When commercial airlines first began operating, only rich people could afford to fly. Since then there has been a rise in passenger numbers due to increasing competition and falling ticket prices and.

Answers

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 days – Total flight time • 17,000 – Number of solar panels on its wings • 72 metres – Its wingspan • 2.3 tonnes – its weight • Same as a wardrobe – Size of the cockpit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1903 • in stages • not use any jet fuel • wings • during the day and night • much more expensive
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Table 1	
awkward, tending to drop or break things	clumsy (adj)
beginning of something	dawn (n)
cause something to start quickly	kick-start (v)
complete change in the way people live, work or do something. transformation	revolution (n)
device with two or more blades that turn quickly and cause a ship or aircraft to move	propeller (n)
discover, work out	figure out (v)
earth, world	globe (n)
edge, limit	boundaries
finally, at some later time	eventually (adv)
flat piece of wood, glass or other material	panel (n)
flying	airborne (adj)
freight, shipment, something carried from one place to another by a boat or airplane	cargo (n)
greatly, significantly, considerably	dramatically (adv)
where the pilot or driver sits in a boat or airplane	cockpit (n)

1. After 3 unsuccessful landing attempts, the pilot was **eventually** able to fix the problem and land the plane safely.
2. After the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the **cockpit** doors of most commercial planes were thoroughly examined by engineers to make sure they were secure.
3. Although less common now for larger aircraft, many smaller planes still use **propellers** rather than jet engines.
4. Aviation engineers say the new light, tough and heat resistant material will **revolutionize** the aviation industry by allowing lighter and more efficient engines to be manufactured. Planes will be able to fly much farther and burn less fuel.
5. In 1986, The Rutan Model 76 Voyager was the first aircraft to fly around the **globe** without stopping or refuelling.
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