

Jobs in Aviation

“Felt board” and finger puppet activities.

OBJECTIVES

Students will:

- Ĥ be able to describe the tasks required of people who work as pilots, flight attendants, air traffic controllers, ticket salespeople, mechanics, and baggage handlers
- Ĥ recognize the importance of these jobs in the aviation industry

MATERIALS FROM TRUNK

Video

There Goes an Airplane

Objects

Cessna hat

Fabric Panel

Aircraft Workers

Worksheet

#10 - Aircraft Workers

Graphic

#17 - 172R Skyhawk Assembly Line

OTHER MATERIALS

- ‘ Colors or markers and scissors.

TEACHER PREPARATION

- ‘ Preview the tape from counter number 233 to 604. This segment talks about commercial aviation and ends when military aviation begins.
- ‘ Rewind the video to counter number 233, the segment discussing modern aviation using Southwest Airlines as an example.
- ‘ Photocopy Worksheet #12 for each student.
- ‘ Hang up the fabric panel where the entire class can see it.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND



Aviation is an important part of the history of Kansas. History is happening right now too



KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Symbols & Images of Kansas

and aviation is part of it. In Kansas, commercial airlines fly in and out of airports. People work as pilots, mechanics, flight attendants, and more. Still others are part of the aircraft industry that builds airplanes.

Commercial airlines employ vast numbers of people. Many times when people think of jobs related with airplanes the work of the pilot comes to mind. There are actually numerous other jobs that are necessary for the pilot to do his/her job to fly the plane and for people to be able to ride in commercial airlines. Travel agents make reservations. Ticket handlers and the check-in crew make sure people have tickets, watch that they are boarding the correct plane, and check travelers's luggage so that it arrives at the same place and time as the passenger. Mechanics refuel the plane, make sure that nothing is broken, de-ice the plane in cold weather, and generally make sure the plane is ready to fly. Air traffic controllers are the traffic police of the sky. They make sure planes don't run into each other as they take off, fly, and land. Flight attendants are responsible, in part, for the safety and comfort of passengers while they are on the plane.

Many people are involved in building the airplanes used in commercial aviation. From the drawing board up people work to design a safe and economical airplane. Tests and prototypes involve many more workers. After production of an airplane begins workers make the pieces, sew the seat covers, paint and sand the planes, install the windows, doors, and instrument panel, and much more.

VOCABULARY

Aviation The science of making it possible for aircraft to fly.

ACTIVITY

- 1) Tell the class that they are going to explore various jobs in the airline industry. Ask for examples of the different types of jobs that are part of the airline industry today.

Show the class the portion of the video *There Goes an Airplane* that deals with commercial aviation (counter number 233-604).

After watching the video have the class use the information they learned from the video to discuss the various types of jobs associated with commercial aviation. Use the fabric panel and the Aviation Workers pieces to help in this discussion.

- ± What types of jobs do people have?
- ± Are all the jobs important? Why or why not?
- ± What does each need to know to do his/her job?

® *Pilot:* *Checks the airplane's safety, flies the plane,*



talks on the radio with the air traffic controller.



- ® *Flight Attendant:* *Explains safety procedures to passengers, helps with seating, takes tickets, and attends to passengers' needs.*
- ® *Ticket Person:* *Sells tickets to passengers, tells passengers what seat to sit in, puts tags on suitcases and gives them to the baggage handler.*
- ® *Baggage Handler:* *Takes the suitcases from the ticket person and makes sure they are put on the right plane, takes baggage off the plane and puts it inside the airport so that the passenger can pick it up after the flight.*
- ® *Air Traffic Controller:* *Tells pilot when and where to take off and land, talks to pilots on the radio so that planes don't run into each other.*
- ® *Mechanic:* *Fixes broken planes, adds fuel, makes sure planes work or are not broken before they take off.*

After the class has completed their discussion of the jobs they saw on the video show them the Cessna hat and tell them that there are other jobs that are important. Explain that the hat says Cessna. Cessna is a company in Wichita that makes airplanes. Before an airplane can fly and before anyone can be a pilot or flight attendant or mechanic, the airplane has to be built. Show the class graphic #17, 172R Skyhawk Assembly Line at Cessna Aircraft Company. People at companies like Cessna build airplanes.

Ask about the jobs people have who build the airplanes.

- ® *People design the planes, they make the pieces of the planes and then put them together (install seats, put in windows, bolt pieces of metal together, etc.), they paint the plane, etc.*

Add the aircraft construction worker to the fabric panel.

- 3) Hand out copies of worksheet #10, Aircraft Workers. Have the students color them, cut them out, and use them to role play the various jobs of people who work in the aviation industry.



EXTENDED ACTIVITIES

- 1) Use the Reading Rainbow video *Ruth Law Thrills a Nation* to discuss women as pilots. The video is available through the Kansas State Historical Society's Media Loan Program.



- 2) View the remainder of the video *There Goes an Airplane*. The first part of the video deals with biplanes and an explanation of lift, the force that makes airplanes fly. Aviation on an aircraft carrier is the subject of the last segment of the video.
- 3) Contact a commercial aviation company (such as the Southwest Airline company discussed in the video) for materials. Some will provide wing pins and handouts for classes studying aviation.
- 4) Invite someone who works in the field of aviation to visit the class and talk about his/her job. This might include a pilot, travel agent, flight attendant, or someone involved in building or maintaining airplanes. Try contacting a local airport for some ideas.
- 5) Contact an aviation museum about programs or information they have available. Some museums in Kansas include: The Kansas Aviation Museum in Wichita, The Combat Air Museum in Topeka, The Mid-America Air Museum in Liberal, and the Cosmosphere in Hutchinson.
- 6) Discuss people from Kansas that have played important roles in the history of aviation, such as Amelia Earhart from Atchison (pioneer woman pilot), A.K. Longren from Leonardville and Topeka (manufactured the first successful aircraft in Kansas), Clyde Cessna from Rago (began the Cessna Aircraft Company in Wichita), Walter and Olive Beech from Wichita (founders of Beech Aircraft Corporation), Steven Hawley from Salina (astronaut), Joe Engle from Chapman (astronaut), Ron Evans (astronaut). Check your local library for books.
- 7) See the "Aviation in Kansas" lesson in this manual.

