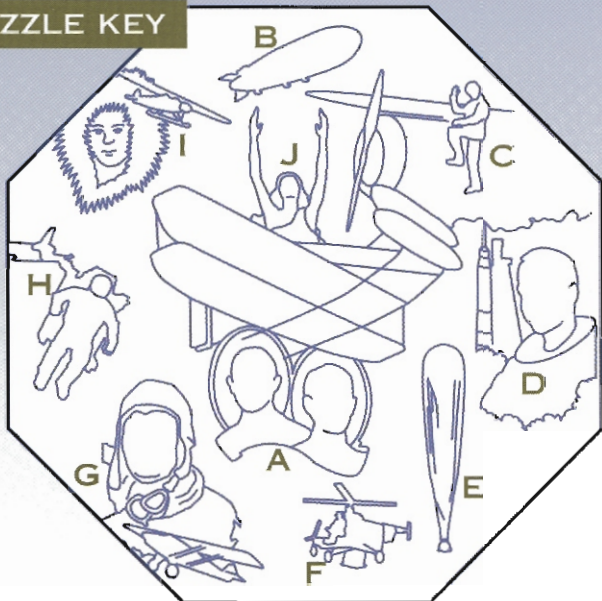




HIGH-FLYING HEROES

PUZZLE KEY



A. Wilbur and Orville Wright were modest, hard-working bicycle builders from Dayton, Ohio. In their spare time, the brothers studied aeronautics and experimented with gliders. By 1903, they had crafted an experimental "flying machine," as they called it. The brothers traveled to the breezy bluffs of Kill Devil Hills near Kitty Hawk, NC, to test out their new contraption. All of their efforts finally paid off on December 17th when Orville and Wilbur became the first to successfully pilot a power-driven plane. Yet their amazing triumph was virtually ignored for several years. Slowly but surely, the word got out and by 1908, fame, honors and money poured in for the Wright Brothers. Unfortunately, Wilbur died of typhoid fever in 1912.

A discouraged Orville sold his airplane business, but went on to become an elder statesman of aviation until his death in 1948.

B. Hugo Eckener. Manufactured in Germany by the Zeppelin Company, the dirigible *U.S.S. Los Angeles* was flown to the United States in 1924 by Hugo Eckener, an airship pioneer. The zepplin completed its 5,000 mile journey in 81 hours. In 1929, Eckener commanded the giant airship *Graf Zeppelin* completely around the world in about ten days (flying time).

C. Amelia Earhart was the first woman pilot to complete a solo flight across the Atlantic (1932) and from Hawaii to California (1935). While attempting a record-breaking
(over)

flight around the world, she disappeared in the Pacific (1937).

D. John Glenn. On February 20, 1962, a towering Atlas rocket blasted John Glenn and his Mercury capsule, *Friendship 7*, into the record books as Glenn became the first American astronaut to orbit the Earth. He was elected to the U.S. Senate from Ohio in 1974.

E. Captains Orvil Anderson and Albert Stevens flew their helium balloon, *Explorer II*, to an altitude of 71,260 feet in 1935. This record remained unbroken for the next 21 years.

F. Igor Sikorsky. Although Russian-born aeronautical pioneer Igor Sikorsky didn't invent the helicopter, he is considered by many to have perfected it. Sikorsky, who often served as his own test pilot, built and flew his historic VS-300 helicopter in 1939.

G. Charles Lindbergh became the first to complete a nonstop,

transatlantic solo flight when he piloted his plane, *The Spirit of Saint Louis*, from New York to Paris in 1927. "Lucky Lindy" quickly became an international hero and was cheered by wildly enthusiastic crowds wherever he went.

H. Bruce McCandless. In February 1984, during the fourth flight of the Space Shuttle *Challenger*, Bruce McCandless became the first person to perform a planned, untethered free-flight in space by piloting the MMU (Manned Maneuvering Unit).

I. Commander Richard E. Byrd, along with Fokker Trimotor pilot Floyd Bennett, claimed to be the first to fly over the North Pole (1926). Three years later, Byrd headed south and became the first man to have flown over both poles.

J. Various versions of this popular aviation icon were featured in sculpture, paintings and advertising of the early 20th century.

