



Celebrate Lindbergh!



A Monthly Idea Newsletter for Teachers and Homeschoolers--
During a Year of Celebration!

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Responsibility

Many people have called Charles Lindbergh a hero. One song from 1927, written about Lindbergh and his famous flight, says he's the "hero of the U.S.A."

On May 20 and 21, 1927, Charles Lindbergh did what no one else had ever done before. He crossed the Atlantic Ocean in an airplane without stopping. And he did it alone.

Lindbergh received \$10,580 from businessmen in St. Louis to build a new plane for the long distance flight. Lindbergh promptly paid the money to Ryan Airlines, Inc. Donald Hall, an engineer at the San Diego company, went right to work helping Lindbergh to design the special plane. Lindbergh was racing against other pilots to be the first to cross the Atlantic. The winner of the Orteig Prize received a check for \$25,000. It would help him to pay back the men ("backers") who gave him the money for the plane. Shortly before the flight, Lindbergh realized he would not qualify for the Prize because his plane was built so quickly and he registered too late, so he talked with the backers about it right away. They said to go ahead with the planned take-off anyway. In the end, he still received the Orteig Prize!

Many other pilots tried to make the transatlantic flight. Some crashed their planes. Some died trying to make the flight, like two Frenchmen, Nungesser and Coli. Lindbergh acted responsibly and did the best job that he could in preparing for the flight. Some of the other planes had fancy furniture. (Lindbergh sat in a wicker chair.) All of the other planes had two or three engines and two pilots. (Lindbergh had one engine and was the only pilot.) He wanted to do everything he could so that there would be more room for gas.

Even with all of his planning, it would still be a dangerous flight. It would mean taking off in a plane that weighed 2,500 pounds, that had never been off the ground with 2,750 pounds of gas in it. It would mean staying awake for over 33 hours. It would mean flying in the dark with no lights except the moon and navigating by the stars. It would mean flying over the ocean where there was no place to stop for more gas. He believed that he could do it with good planning and because he was an experienced airmail pilot.

After the famous flight, Charles was honored by the country of France and when he returned to America he was honored by the President of the United States in Washington, D.C. After that he flew to 80 cities in all of

(continued above...)

the 48 states. He landed in each town on time (except one time when there was too much fog). People often asked him to make speeches. Everywhere he went after the flight there were parades where people threw confetti, bands played, and children waved American flags. Lindbergh was at the start of the parade, often seated in the back of a convertible with the city's mayor.

Because of Charles Lindbergh's accomplishment, many people young and old wanted to learn how to fly. School children and adults from around the world wrote letters and made gifts for Lindbergh because he was their hero.



Literature Links

Books that promote responsibility: (K-2)

- Flyaway Girl/ Grifalconi, Ann
- Pickled Peppers/ McArthur, Nancy
- The Berenstain Bears and the Blame Game/ Berenstain, Stan & Berenstain, Jan

(3-5)

- Our Sixth-Grade Sugar Babies/ Bunting, Eve
- One Eyed Cat Fox, Paula Gordon
- Backyard Angel/ Delton, Judy

Books about Heroes and Heroines:

- Numerous biographies/autobiographies
- The Story of the Three Bears/ Mure, Eleanor
- Blatherskite/ Potter, Marian
- The Heroine of the Titanic/ Bos, John
- Kate Shelley: Bound for Legend/ San Souci, Robert D.
- Hero Tales from Many Lands/ Hazeltine, Alice
- The Adventures of Isabel/ Nash, Ogden
- Girls Who Rocked the World: Heroines from Sacagawea to Sheryl Swoopes/ Welden, Amelie
- The Adventures of Captain Underpants: an epic novel/ Pilkey, Dav
- Ramona's World/ Cleary, Beverly

*Please email me if you want more titles!
There are hundreds!
psharon@lfalls.k12.mn.us



Vocabulary:

- Responsible
- Hero
- Heroine

Discussion Starters:

- Why was Lindbergh a hero?
- What events of 1927 made Lindbergh one of the greatest heroes of the 20th Century?
- What was the public's reaction to the flight? And Charles Lindbergh?
- What is the "cost" of being a hero?
- Who are some TV heroes? What makes them heroes?
- Who else can be a real life hero?
- Who is your hero? Why do you look up to them?
- What kind of responsibility does a hero have?
- Who was Lindbergh responsible to?
- In what ways did he show responsibility?
- What does it mean to be responsible?
- How can you show responsibility? What are you responsible for?



Promoting Heroes & Heroines Across the Curriculum

...a few ideas to help you out!

Enhance Social Studies:

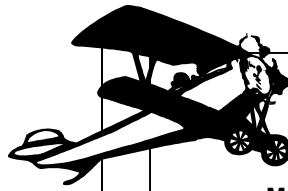
- History has revealed many heroes and heroines. Webster's New World Dictionary, defines a hero as any person admired for courage and nobility, someone of great strength and courage. A hero often takes on great responsibility for others. Have the students brainstorm a list of heroes/heroines based on what you are studying in social studies. **Remember those that weren't very famous, or think about those who worked behind the scenes**- for example those who stayed behind when others went off to war, or exploring.
- Not studying something conducive to heroes/heroines? Use Women's History Month as a theme.

Enhance Science:

- There are MANY heroes and heroines in the science fields. List 10. Did they act responsibly with their scientific work?

Enhance the arts:

- Tie into St. Patrick's Day! Artists abound in Ireland-some thought of as heroes-some not! Who was Finn McCool? What was James Joyce famous for? W.B. Yeats? Can you name a current popular band from Ireland? (**U2** and/or **The Corrs, Enya**) St. Patrick is a hero in Ireland-why? What is the legend about Patrick? What is fact, fiction? Where was he born? Belleek from Ireland represents an art, what?



Charles' Flight Timeline for March 1927:

- **March:** On February 25, 1927, Lindbergh went to San Diego to talk to Ryan Airlines, Inc.. He wires the St. Louis businessmen to tell them the details and they say he should close the deal. Charles spends most of two months "camped out" at the Ryan factory.



BULLETIN BOARD IDEA!

Spotlight a hero's traits on a giant hero sandwich! Give each student a colorful paper cutout that resembles lettuce, cheese, or ham. Then, working from a class list of hero traits, each student copies and completes the sentence (or paragraph): "A hero is someone who..." Cut out title "WHAT TRAITS MAKE A HERO?" Mount the students work on top of a giant construction paper sub bun - add an olive or pickle - now that's an eye-catching, tasteful display!



Heroes and Heroines Wanted!

Have you ever taken on a responsibility, such as feeding a pet, or watching a younger sister? Do your mom and dad work hard so that you can have a better life?* Does the postman deliver your mail every day, no matter how awful the weather is? Does your teacher spend almost every evening going over lessons, or correcting assignments?

Brainstorm other acts that show responsible behavior. Some people who take on great responsibility are called heroes.

Using the activity from pp. 8-9 in Crayola Dream-Makers®, have students create a "Hero Wanted" poster that shows the person's face surrounded by words describing the responsible acts. Think how proud the 'heroes' will be to know that students think of them this way.

* Taken from Crayola Dream-Makers® 2001

