

Celebrate Lindbergh!



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

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A person shows PERSEVERANCE when he or she continues toward a goal until it is finished, despite obstacles or discouragement.

Lindbergh = Perseverance

When Charles Lindbergh was a young boy, he heard and then saw his first airplane. In that moment he knew that he wanted to fly, but his mother thought that it would be much too expensive and dangerous. Charles' father became a U.S. Congressman and 6 years later his father gave him a chance to go to the Aeronautical Trials to see a half-dozen airplanes. Charles said that being there was so "intense and fascinating that I want to fly myself." When he was a teenager he would read about famous World War I flying aces and dreamed of having a plane of his own.

After Charles received his high school diploma he went on to college at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. He did not do very well in his classes except military drill (ROTC) and shop. After 11/2 years, he decided not to continue with classes. The University agreed.

It didn't take Charles long to decide what he was going to do next because he knew he was going to follow his dream and learn to fly! He drove his motorcycle to Lincoln, Nebraska and began working at the Nebraska Aircraft Corporation. There he learned to "dope" wings and replace engines and earned enough money for his first plane – a JN4-D "Jenny". He soloed for the first time in his plane. It was made from leftover parts of World War I aircrafts.

Charles wanted to be the best pilot he could so he joined the Army Air Corp because they had the best training. There he worked harder than ever to reach his dream, staying up late at night to study in the bathroom under lights that stayed on all night. He realized he had to change his attitude about studying. He graduated at the top of his class.

Shortly after that, Charles became one of the first airmail pilots, planning and flying the route from St. Louis to Chicago. It was when he was flying the airmail that he thought about what it might be like to fly across the ocean. He felt he had a lot of good experience as an airmail pilot, flying at night in all kinds of bad weather for long hours.

But first Charles needed to get some money together to buy a plane for the flight. The plane would need to be specially built to carry enough gas for the long distance. If he made it from New York to Paris, he could win a contest and the Ortieg Prize for \$25,000. He only had \$2,000 of his own money for a plane. He talked to many different people and 9 others eventually helped Charles by giving him enough money to build the plane. It cost \$10,580 in 1927 and was built in only 60 days.

Even after the plane was finished, he realized that it would be difficult to win the contest. There were several other planes in the race. Charles was the only one flying alone (the others had another pilot for the long flight). He also had the only plane with one engine. Other teams were ready before him.

The morning that Charles took off for Paris was rainy and cold. He was tired because he was only able to sleep a couple of hours the night before. Several men worked together to push the plane across a muddy field. They had to carry the last of the gas in cans to the plane and pour it through a funnel. The plane was overloaded and had never taken off with that much fuel before. On take-off the plane bounced once and then twice and then the weight shifted from the wheels to the wings and the plane began to fly. It cleared the telephone lines at the end of the runway by only 20 feet.

Then the real adventure began. Charles flew over an endless ocean. First the mud from the take-off made the plane hard to fly. Then Charles became so tired that he was fighting to stay awake so he flew close to the water to feel the spray on his face. The wings and the engine of the plane started to ice up over the ocean forcing him to fly low in warmer air.

Charles worked hard to capture his dream of flying. He persevered and reached his goal of being the first to fly solo, non-stop from New York to Paris. His accomplishment showed that aviation could be a reliable source of transportation. Thirty-three and 1/2 hours later he arrived safely at Le Bourget Field greeted by a huge crowd of people.



Source: Charles and Anne Morrow Lindbergh Foundation

Discussion Starters:

- Charles Lindbergh had a dream of something he wanted to do, what was it? How old was he?
- What are your dreams?
- How did Charles follow his dream? And how long did it take? What would you be willing to do to reach your dreams?
- What can you do to reach your dream? Will you get it right away?
- In what ways did Charles demonstrate perseverance?



Perseverance Across the Curriculum

...a few ideas to help you out!

Enhance Science:

- Research the difference between the *Spirit of St. Louis* and a modern Cessna 172 plane. Differences: size, shape, structure, flying technologies, engine, fuel capacity, navigation, etc. **Make a poster showing the comparisons.**

Enhance the arts:

- Make simple puppets*, or use puppets that are pre-made. Have students write and act out a simple play about any of Lindbergh's adventures—childhood, early flying days, famous flights, visits to Africa or Hawaii, etc. Video tape it to share with others! Save the tape for the Lindbergh Celebration! *Great source: [Crafty Puppets](#)/Thomassina Smith
- Play some of the 'Lindy' music in your classroom! Many songs about Lindbergh were written after the famous flight.* *Email Becky Dawson @ Lindbergh Elementary for titles.



Enhance language arts:

- Read 'Amazing Grace' to your class. Have the kids discuss how Grace pursues and reaches her goal. What obstacles did she have to overcome? Using about a 6" star, have each student copy & complete this sentence on one side: "If Grace can play Peter Pan, I can _____." Then have the students turn their star over, write "Amazing [student's name]," and illustrate the sentence they wrote. Hole-punch it, suspend it directly above their desk using monofilament line. Watch the kids reach for the stars!
- Letter writing: After listing on the board (as a group) qualities of perseverance, have the kids brainstorm a list of people they think have shown a lot of perseverance. Have them choose one, and make a construction paper thank-you card for one of them. Use proper thank you letter form, address envelopes, and mail them.

Enhance math:

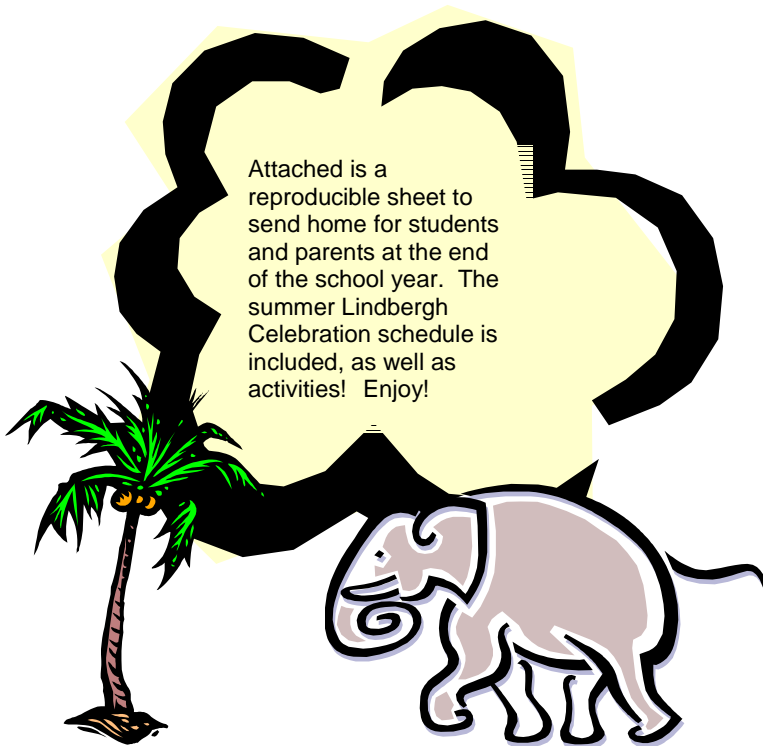
- Have students use their math and map skills to calculate how far it is from Lambert Field, Missouri to Curtiss Field, Long Island, and from New York to Paris.

Vocabulary:

Doping – putting varnish on the fabric that covered the wood that formed the wings and the main part of airplanes, making them waterproof and stronger (planes today are not built this way)

Solo – the first time a pilot flies a plane alone

Perseverance – is working hard for something that is really important to you, even if it is not easy.



Attached is a reproducible sheet to send home for students and parents at the end of the school year. The summer Lindbergh Celebration schedule is included, as well as activities! Enjoy!

BULLETIN BOARD IDEA!

We all know that students have a difficult time retraining their reading skills over the summer. Have the students create something for a summer scene, such as a fishing boat, butterfly, bird, flower, a **plane in the sky**, etc. On each item have the kids write down a goal for reading—read 5 books each month, read 12 different kinds of books, go to the library once a week, join the summer reading program at the library, make a book club, etc. You can leave it up all May!



Awesome Websites!!

Just copy, cut and paste into your navigator—you'll have 100s of ideas!

- www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/lindbergh/
- www.lindberghfoundation.org
- www.lindberghspirit.com

Charles' Flight Timeline for May 1927:

May 10, 1927 – morning:

- Lindbergh goes to Ryan factory to say thanks & goodbye
- Drives to Dutch flats, flies to North Island & Rockwell field to gas up plane, has lunch.

Afternoon:

- 3:15 Returns to plane, surrounded by reporters and photographers
- 3:55 Takes off escorted by 2 Army observation planes & a Ryan monoplane. They turned back after 90 minutes

May 11, St. Louis – morning:

- 8:20 Lands at Lambert Field, sets a nonstop flight record (1,500 mi. in 14 hr., 25 min.)
- Robertson brothers & aviation friends meet him at the airport, go to breakfast
- Receives his transport-pilot's license #69
- Former flying student, Fr. Henry Hussman, hands Charles a silver medal of Our Lady of Loretto, the patroness of aviators
- Vacuum Oil Co., makers of Mobiloil "3" assures him oil, hotel and hangar will be ready in N.Y.
- He suggests to Bixby & Knight that he should leave for New York immediately to head off the competition, they agree
- Lindbergh stays in his former boarding house overnight.

May 12 – morning:

- 8:00 a.m. Takes off from Lambert Field
- Long Island – 3:22 p.m. – Lands at Curtiss Field, sets another nonstop flight record (7 hr., 22 min.), crossed the country in 22 hours, another record

May 13 – afternoon:

- Commander Byrd offers Charles weather information & free use of his runway at Roosevelt Field, it provides " a longer & better take-off run than I expected to find anywhere around New York"
- Lindbergh's mother wires him that she will arrive in New York the following day

May 14 – morning:

- Meets his mother, Evangeline, at the Garden City train station, has quiet lunch in Hempstead
- Afternoon, borrows a car & drives Evangeline to Curtiss Field to watch 2 test flights
- Goes to Manhattan to get passport & weather information

May 15 – afternoon:

- Accepts luncheon invitation to the Oyster Bay home of Col. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr.
- Met Harry Guggenheim who says to look him up at the Fund's office when he gets back
- William Morris approaches him about being on a lecture circuit when he returns
- Goes to Coney Island



May 19 St. Louis – morning:

- Visits Wright plant in New Jersey
- Stops for a weather report on the way to a Broadway play, discovers there will be some clearing over the ocean
- Stops for a quick meal in Queensboro Plaza, buys 6 sandwiches for the trip, prepares for possible morning departure
- Returns to hotel, tries to sleep

May 20, 2:30 a.m.:

- Gets dressed in his flying outfit & heads to Curtiss Field, greeted by 500+ onlookers
- Eats 1 sandwich, has plane wheeled outside & driven to Roosevelt Field escorted by 6 Nassau County motorcycle patrolmen
- 7:54 a.m. The *Spirit* becomes airborne, leaving Long Island for Paris

**May 21, 1927, 5:21 p.m. Charles
Lindbergh lands safely at Le Bourget
Field, Paris, France!**

Literature Links

Books that promote Perseverance:

(K-2)

- [The Little Engine that Could/](#) various adaptations
- [Hugh Can Do/](#) Jennifer Armstrong
- [The 14 Forest Mice and the Summer Laundry Day/](#) Kazuo Iwamura & M. Knowlton
- [Amazing Grace/](#) Mary Hoffman
- [Cyrus the Unsinkable Sea Serpent/](#) Bill Peet
- [Thomas Raccoons Fantastic Airshow/](#) Shintaro Maeda
- [Mrs. Mooley/](#) Jack Kent

(3-5)

- [Skateboard /](#) Stephen Caitlin
- [The Exiles/](#) Hilary McKay
- [The Muskie Hook/](#) Peter Zachary Cohen
- [www.earthday.ca/EDV2k/Home/homefrm1.html](#)
- [A Picture Book of Helen Keller/](#) David A. Adler
- [Hard to Breathe/](#) Benjamin Alvarado
- [www.randomhouse.com/holiday/earthday/](#)
- [Apple Butter/](#) Deborah Turney Zagwyn
- [www.earthday.net](#)
- [Mrs. Peachtree's Bicycle/](#) Erica Silverman
- [www.planetnais.com/earthday.html](#)
- [Takedown/](#) E.M.J. Benjamin

(All)

- [www.randomhouse.com/seussville/titles/orax](#)
- [www.allspeciesareborn.com/blackie.html](#)
- [Uncle Jack's Barbershop/](#) Margaret King Mitchell
- [The Tortoise and the Hare/](#) adapted by Janet Stevens
- [Two Frogs in Trouble: Based on a Fable Told by Paramahansa Yogananda/](#) Natalie Hale et al

