

**Walters, Joanna. "A century in the sky." Geographical. Jan2004, Vol. 76 Issue 1, p37-45, 6p, 1c, 5bw**

This article provides various information on aviation: history of flight and the development of aviation technologies and its use in our lives. The article describes the history of flight from 1903 to 2004 and the Wright brothers' impact on aviation history. The aircraft in 1903 traveled at 56km/h and now rockets orbit at around 24000km/h. The turning point of aviation technology was when First World War started. Engines became more powerful and airframes more sturdy and improved efficiency in manufacturing increased the numbers of aircraft ,produced from hundreds to thousands. According to the website, with the war's end, the sudden drop in demand for aircraft had discouraged the aircraft industry. In 1920, the entire US aircraft industry produced just 328 new planes, while in Europe, many manufacturers went bankrupt. But it began to flourish, and the 1920s and '30s became a golden age of aviation.

The aviation has given great benefits to geographers and cartographers. In the 1940s, the US Navy used Martin and Douglas aircraft to map about 3.8 million square kilometres of Antarctica's interior and about 8,800 kilometres of its coastline. And the aerial photographs taken during Second World War reconnaissance are now being used to promote urban regeneration in the UK.

Aviation also has enabled scientists to observe the Earth from above, giving them an unprecedented insight. Peter Purcell of the Airborne Remote Sensing Facility at the Natural Environment Research Council said that Without aircraft, there would be fundamental errors of knowledge and science, geography and the environment."

This article is greatly useful in many ways; it briefly describes the dramatic improvement in aviation during the early decades of 20<sup>th</sup> century and its practical use in

our everyday life. The article will be quoted whenever I need to prove how aviation gave us benefits.