

## A French inventor flies across the English Channel on a hoverboard

### Elementary

#### 1 Warmer

Complete the sentences with the correct years.

1969

1875

1953

1606

1903

1. The first Europeans reached Australia in \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Neil Armstrong was the first person to walk on the Moon in \_\_\_\_\_.
3. In \_\_\_\_\_, the Wright brothers made the first aeroplane flight.
4. Edmund Hillary and Tensing Norgay reached the top of Mount Everest in \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Captain Matthew Webb swam the English Channel from England to France in \_\_\_\_\_.

#### 2 Key words

Fill the gaps in the sentences with these key words from the text. The paragraph numbers will help you.

kerosene

rucksack

land

inventor

military

refuel

1. An \_\_\_\_\_ is someone who has designed or made something completely new. (para 1)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ refers to the army or armed forces. (para 2)
3. \_\_\_\_\_ is a type of fuel. (para 3)
4. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a large bag you carry on your back. (para 3)
5. If you \_\_\_\_\_ a car or a plane, you put more fuel into it. (para 3)
6. When aircraft \_\_\_\_\_, they come down to the ground. (para 3)

#### 3 Find the information

Find the following information in the text as quickly as possible.

1. When did Louis Blériot become the first person to fly from France to England?
2. When did Franky Zapata first try to fly across the English Channel on his Flyboard?
3. How long did it take him to make the Flyboard?
4. How many small jet engines does his Flyboard have?
5. How far did Zapata fly from England to France?
6. How fast did he fly?
7. How high above the sea did he fly?
8. How long did it take him to reach Dover?

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5 September, 2019

- 1 On 25 July, 1909, a French inventor, Louis Blériot, became the first person to fly across the English Channel from France to England. His flight lasted for 36 minutes and 30 seconds at a speed of 67 kilometres an hour at a height of 80 metres.
- 2 Exactly 110 years later, on 25 July, 2019, another French inventor and former jet-ski champion, 40-year-old Franky Zapata, tried to cross the English Channel standing on a type of hoverboard called the Flyboard. He worked for up to 15 hours a day for more than three years to make the Flyboard, which flies with the help of five small jet engines. Zapata was given 1.3 million euro by the French army to make the Flyboard. It could have many different uses in the future, including military uses.
- 3 The Flyboard uses kerosene fuel. This is heavy, so Zapata could only carry enough fuel in his rucksack for half the crossing. He needed to refuel halfway across the Channel. He did this by landing on a boat to change his rucksack for another one filled with fuel. But when he tried to land on the platform, he fell into the sea.
- 4 This did not stop Zapata from trying again, and on 4 August, 2019, he left the French coast at 06.17 to fly the 35 km to England. He flew at a speed of 170 kilometres an hour, about 15 to 20 metres above the water. This time, he refuelled the hoverboard on a larger boat. He then continued his flight to the English coast. He landed near Dover just 22 minutes after leaving France.

### 4 Comprehension check

Match the beginnings to the endings to make statements about the text.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Louis Blériot's flight across the English Channel ... | a. ... was much faster than Blériot.                        |
| 2. Blériot flew at a height of 80 metres, which ...      | b. ... because he fell into the sea.                        |
| 3. Zapata flew at 170 kilometres per hour, which ...     | c. ... lasted for 36 minutes and 30 seconds.                |
| 4. Zapata had to refuel in the middle of the Channel ... | d. ... have military uses in the future.                    |
| 5. He didn't reach England the first time he tried ...   | e. ... because the kerosene in his rucksack was very heavy. |
| 6. Zapata's Flyboard might ...                           | f. ... was 60 metres higher than Zapata.                    |

### 5 Chunks

Rearrange the words to make phrases from the text.

1. speed at of 67 an a hour kilometres
2. of metres a 80 height at
3. up day to a hours 15
4. than for years three more

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#### 6 Word-building

Complete the table using words from the text.

	verb	noun
1.	fly	
2.	invent	(person)
3.	cross	
4.	use	

#### 7 Prepositions

Complete the phrases from the text using these prepositions.

with

in

into

of

at

1. fall \_\_\_\_\_ the sea
2. \_\_\_\_\_ a speed \_\_\_\_\_ 67 kilometres an hour
3. \_\_\_\_\_ the help of jet engines
4. \_\_\_\_\_ the future

#### 8 Discussion

- Would you like to have a Flyboard? Why? Why not?

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#### KEY

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1. 1606
2. 1969
3. 1903
4. 1953
5. 1875

#### 2 Key words

1. inventor
2. military
3. kerosene
4. rucksack
5. refuel
6. land

#### 3 Find the information

1. 25 July, 1909
2. 25 July, 2019
3. more than three years
4. five
5. 35 km
6. 170 kilometres an hour
7. 15 to 20 metres
8. 22 minutes

#### 4 Comprehension check

1. c
2. f
3. a
4. e
5. b
6. d

#### 5 Chunks

1. at a speed of 67 kilometres an hour
2. at a height of 80 metres
3. up to 15 hours a day
4. for more than three years

#### 6 Word-building

1. flight
2. inventor
3. crossing
4. use

#### 7 Prepositions

1. into
2. at; of
3. with
4. in