



Celebrations 2 - 5 October
Central Australian Aviation Museum

Aviation Museum Centennial Celebrations

The First Aeroplane landing in Alice Springs - October 5th, 1921

Suggested activities:

1. Design a POSTER to advise the residents of Alice Springs of the exciting, historical event about to be celebrated in their isolated township.
2. Select one of the events which occurred during the flight from Melbourne to Alice Springs. Mr Briggs described some frightening, exciting and interesting sights and events.
DRAW THE SCENE which you found most interesting.
3. Construct a MAP showing the route taken by Briggs from Melbourne to Alice Springs, including all of his landings sites along the journey.
Remember to include:
Border, Orientation, Legend (key), Title, Scale.
4. Write a letter to your grandparents or a friend who lives in Melbourne or Sydney. Describe what you witnessed and your thoughts when you witnessed the landing at the airstrip.
You might include comments such as:
What did you see?
How did others react when the plane appeared over The Gap.
What was the landing like?
What did you think when you saw the plane after it had landed?
Describe the reactions of the crowd gathered after the landing.

QUESTIONS

1. Who was the pilot of the first aeroplane to land in Alice Springs?
2. Who were the passengers on the flight?
3. What type of plane was the first aeroplane to land in Alice Springs?
4. On what date did the plane depart from Port Melbourne Aerodrome?
5. What was the total duration of their journey to Alice Springs?
6. Briggs described the plane as being: “ open to the elements”. What did he mean by this statement?
7. Do you consider that it would have been a difficult task to pilot the De Havilland aeroplane? Give 4 reasons for your answer.
8. How do we know from Briggs’ account of his journey that this historical flight was of great interest to people throughout Australia?
9. Give two (or more) reasons that would make you:
 - a) Very keen to be on that first flight.
 - AND
 - b) Refuse to participate in the historical flight.

10 Name 2 streets in Alice Springs which have been named after aeroplanes.

WORK WITH A PARTNER :

Discuss and record your thoughts, observations and give examples.

1. Describe how Aviation has changed and developed in the past 100 years.
2. Describe how Alice Springs has changed and developed over the past 100 years.
Eg. Buildings, streets, transport, housing, clothing, etc