



Making Flight Safe

Part 1

Teacher Reads Elrey Jeppesen was fascinated by flying. He liked it so much that he spent years flying airplanes.

Elrey Jeppesen was born in 1907. At that
8 time, people traveled by horse and wagon or
16 on trains. There were not a lot of cars yet.
26 And planes had just been invented.

32 When Elrey was growing up, he spent
39 a lot of time looking at **eagles** flying. He
48 could not wait to fly someday himself.
55 That day came when Elrey was 14. He
63 had his first ride in a plane. The short
72 flight cost \$4. That was a lot to pay in
82 those days.

84 Elrey worked and saved his cash. When
91 he was 18, he got flying lessons. He paid for a
102 plane of his own. He worked by performing
110 stunts and tricks in his plane. He worked flying
119 planes to transport mail.

Part 2

Teacher Reads When Jeppesen was flying planes in the 1920s and 1930s, flying was dangerous. Pilots did not have the tools to keep them safe as they flew.

123 There were no maps for planes that **pilots** could
132 use when they were flying. Pilots had to use
141 road maps made for car travel. They followed
149 railroad tracks, keeping the tracks in sight
156 so they would not get lost. Pilots used
164 landmarks, such as hills, rivers, and forests,
171 to see the right way to go.



Part 2 continued

178 Pilots had to fly low so they could see the roads,
189 railroad tracks, and landmarks below. Flying low was
197 not safe. Pilots could not tell how high things were,
207 like hills and smokestacks. Pilots might fly right into
216 such objects.

Part 3

Teacher Reads Jeppesen was determined to make flying safer for himself and for other pilots.

218 As Jeppesen kept flying, he wanted to make flying
227 safer. He got a **notebook** and made notes and maps
237 from his flights. He jotted down where landmarks
245 were. He made maps of runways for planes, with notes
255 on how to land in safe ways. He went to the top of
268 hills and smokestacks and made notes on how high
277 they were.

279 Other pilots wanted to use Jeppesen's notes. So he
288 made his notes into charts. His charts helped pilots
297 stay safe while they were flying from spot to spot. He
308 set up a **business** to publish and sell his charts. As time
320 went on, Jeppesen kept his charts up-to-date by adding
331 important facts. Today pilots can use Jeppesen's charts
339 when they fly. Elrey Jeppesen made flying safer for
348 all pilots. [Learn More](#)

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