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National Geographic Kids Readers: Planes

Notes for teachers: using this book in the classroom

Reading objectives: read accurately words of two or more syllables; read most words quickly and accurately, without overt sounding and blending, when they have been frequently encountered; discuss and clarify the meanings of words, linking new meanings to known vocabulary; answer and ask questions

Spoken language objectives: use spoken language to develop understanding through speculating, hypothesising, imagining and exploring ideas

Curriculum links: Design and Technology: design; technical knowledge; Mathematics – Measurement; Number and place value

Interest words: cockpit, cabin, pilot, remote control, blade, tailhook, refuelling, VIP, drone, propeller, jet, stealth, anemometer

Resources: internet, paper, pencils, crayons

Children who are reading at Green, Orange and Turquoise book bands are developing reading stamina and should be able to tackle longer stretches of text and some unfamiliar vocabulary with increasing independence. Children will enjoy talking about the content and pictures with some support – for example, in a group or guided reading session, or when reading with an adult.

Language
- The language used in the main text should be familiar to children reading at this level and may be read independently, but children may need help with the following:
  - decoding and understanding the technical vocabulary used to describe the parts of the different planes
  - decoding the less familiar multi-syllable and compound words, e.g. *neighbourhood, mobile, private, boomerang, Enterprise*
  - reading the written and digital numbers and measurements, e.g. *9000 metres*
- Children may need help decoding and pronouncing the names of the planes featured. They may need to say the names aloud several times: *C17 Globemaster, Antonov 225, Bumble bee, SR_71 Blackbird, Flying Tiger, B-2 stealth bomber.*
- Children may need help using the organisational devices, e.g. the contents to find information; the picture glossary *Wing Words* to learn the meaning of new words: *VIP, drone, propeller, jet, stealth, anemometer.*
- Children may need help to read the speech bubbles and labels, and to combine all the information with the text and images to make meaning.
- Children will enjoy reading the jokes and turning the pages for the answers. They may need help initially to understand the word play, e.g. *because it was grounded*.

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Images

- Look at the planes on the front cover and on the title pages. Ask children to describe what they can see, and how the planes are different.
- Look carefully at the image of the Sky trucks on pp10-11. Talk about what you can see in this special plane. Develop children's understanding of what a VIP is, and how they use this plane.

Activities

- Decide which plane is the most amazing, and give reasons for this.
- Draw a picture of a plane and label some of its cool features.
- Enjoy reading the jokes to each other.
- Research how drones are being used to help people.

Questions

- What is it like in a cockpit of an aeroplane?
- What is a sky truck used for?
- What is the name of the biggest plane ever made?
- What is a drone?
- What does the word 'stealth' mean?