

Amanda Becker

Rockford History Aurora University Lesson Plan

Course/Grade Level: Progressive Era Unit/Honors US History/11th Grade

Lesson Title: Flight Over Rockford

1. Set Induction: Classes will meet in the library. As class begins, I will lead a quick 5-minute class discussion about how the development of aviation has affected our lives by asking questions such as:

- A. How have aero planes affected the way we travel?
- B. How have aero planes affected our economy- globally and regionally?
- C. How many of you has traveled by air, and describe your experience?

2. Aims/Objectives and Standards: District 205 High School History Standards

HISTORY

- Apply methods of historical inquiry (pose questions, collect and analyze primary and secondary sources, make and support arguments with evidence, and report findings). **USH-04**
- Analyze historic events within their context and evaluate how interpretations of those events changed over time. **USH-05**

SOCIAL SYSTEMS

- Examine the evolution of the American identity through the eyes of different cultural groups (e.g., African Americans, immigrants, Native Americans, religious groups, role of women in society). **USH-08**

3. Procedures, Assessments and Materials Required: Once our 5-minute discussion has concluded, I will pass out the, “Flight Over Rockford Living Museum Project Directions Handout” and the “Flight Over Rockford Through the Progressive Era Opinion Questions Handout.” The students and I will go over the details of the living history project, select their groups of three, report to me their group members, and then use the rest of the hour to research their historical Rockford pilot. The “Flight Over Rockford Through the Progressive Era Opinion Questions Handout” is to be completed in their notebooks for homework. See the “Flight Over Rockford Living Museum Project Directions Handout” for assessment.

4. Resources and Scholarship:

“First Smash-Up of Aeroplane by Woman (in the USA) Takes Place at Aviation Grounds at Minneola, Very Slightly Hurt” The Knoxville Sentinel. September 16, 1910, pg 1.

<http://earlyaviators.com/eraiche.htm>

<http://www.anciens-aerodromes.com/?p=6305>

“Raiche.” <http://aerofiles.com/ra.html>

Snively, Julie. “When History Flew Over Rockford.” Rockford Register Star. May 13, 1997, pg. 11.

“Woman Flies I Bi-Plane.” Rockford Daily Register Gazette. September 24, 1910, pg. 2.

5. Conclusion/Lesson Wrap-up: Students will hold a “popularity contest” for the most significant pilot in Rockford History. Students will have 30 seconds to persuade the class as to why students should vote for their pilot. Blank index cards will be passed out, and the winning pilot group will receive Starburst for their efforts.

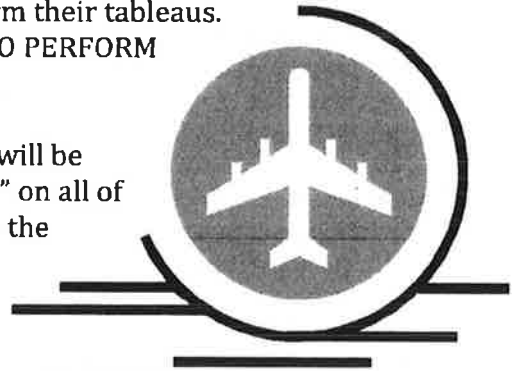
6. Follow Up Activity: As the students are performing their “tableaus” for the living history museum performance day, the other students should be taking notes on the other pilots that their group did not research. The students will then use these notes to create a Rockford Pilot “Hall of Fame” brochure in their notebooks highlighting the achievements of the other pilots.

Project Due Date:

“Flight Over Rockford Living Museum Project Directions Handout”

At the turn of the Twentieth Century, technology was rapidly changing the world, much like it is changing today's world. Among the many developing technologies of the time was aviation. The Wright Brothers flight of 1903 was only the beginning of many aviation feats of the Progressive Era. Rockford was not without its own Progressive aviation history- which you'll learn about in the “Flight Over Rockford Through the Progressive Era” handout assignment. Your assignment is directed towards Rockford aviator history after 1918, and the directions for your group projects are as follows:

1. Get into a group of three or four max, and then have your group captain report to me your group members' names.
2. Have your group chose an aviator you all want to research and report to me (aviators are first come- first served, once an aviator is picked, he/she is picked).
3. Use the rest of the hour and tomorrow to research your group's aviator in the library today and tomorrow. Use your time wisely. I will not write passes to the library for research later this week during class.
4. Groups should meet at least once or twice outside of class. One group member is the narrator, while the others are actors. Work on how the scenes will be set up, and the narrators' monologue. Your group must perform at least three tableaux on your group's pilot. The narrators' monologue with all of the group members' names on it will be collected as exit tickets on the presentation day.
5. **Presentation Day:** Group captains will draw numbers from a hat. That will determine the order in which groups will perform their tableaux. That means EVERY GROUP SHOULD BE READY TO PERFORM ON PERFORMANCE DAY!
6. **Follow up Assignment:** When your group is not performing, take notes on the other pilots. You will be expected to create a “pilot hall of fame brochure” on all of the other pilots in your notebooks. Each pilot in the “pilot hall of fame brochure” must include three facts and a picture depicting the pilot's achievement.



List of Rockford Aviators to Research:

Bessica Raiche- she's just a barrel of fun

Fred Machesney- had his own airfield...

Bert Hassel- wanted to fly non-stop to Stockholm, Sweden.

Adm. George Dufek- first to land a plane on the South Pole.

Gen. Laurence Kuter- a founder of the modern US Military Airforce.

Maj. Gen. Fred J. Ascani- flew WW II combat missions and broke a speed record.

Brig. Gen. Lewis Stocking- flew support missions over Normandy, led NORAD.

Elizabeth “Lizzy” Gardner- one of the first group of women US Military pilots.

Ben Abruzzo- first to fly a balloon over the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

Janice Voss- Rockford Astronaut.

Flight Over Rockford Through the Progressive Era

Manufacturing has been the “backbone” of Rockford’s economy for most of its 150 year existence (such as the agricultural implement, furniture, and tool and die industries). The aerospace industry seems to be a new direction for Rockford- but is it really? Rockford has had a long history with flight, and currently supports a local baseball club nicknamed the “Aviators.” The following paragraphs and questions relate pieces of Rockford’s Progressive Era aerial past. Write your answers to the following questions in your notebook.

1. According to Julie Snively’s article, “When History Flew Over Rockford,” Silas M. Brooks flew a hot air balloon in Rockford (made from silk) and stitched by Rockford women. It was only the second ever recorded flight in Illinois History. **Questions:** *Why do you think that Silas M. Brooks wanted to fly in a hot air balloon? Would you have joined him in his flight over Rockford- why or why not?*

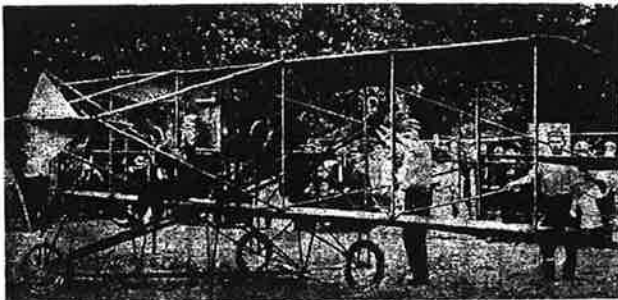
2. Not all of Rockford aviators were men. On the website *Aerofiles*, the authors summarized Bessica Raiche’s plane as a, “Curtiss-inspired design made of bamboo and silk, built in the home of those newlyweds and assembled in their front yard.” On September 24, 1910, Raiche flew her own plane and was believed to be the first woman to successfully fly an airplane solo. **Question:** *Knowing that the plane was held together with bamboo and silk materials, would you have had enough guts to fly it?*

WOMAN FLIES IN BIPLANE

Mrs. Bessica Raiche, of Wisconsin, Makes Good at Mineola, Ia.

(By Associated Press.)
Mineola, Ia., Sept. 24.—Mrs. Bessica Raiche, the Wisconsin aviator, who came to grief here a few days ago while trying out a new biplane, redeemed herself to-day by making seven short flights over the Mineola trying ground. Her most successful attempt was a flight of a mile and a quarter at a height of thirty feet.

3. In 1911, there was a three day aero plane event in Loves Park. The main feature was Beckwith Havens from New York and his flying partner Jimmy Ward from Chicago. They flew bi-plane stunts so close to the ground that people were afraid that they would crash. During one of their stunts over the Rock River, they caused a woman to jump into the river for safety. The Rockford newspapers lamented that the event should have been better attended. **Question:** *Should air shows allow pilots to perform dangerous stunts with spectators on the ground?*



4. In 1912, Beckwith Havens returned to the Rockford area to fly the first Rockford seaplane flights off of the Rock River. **Question:** *What dangers could have been associated with his seaplane flights?*
5. Clayton Ingersoll was college educated and had wealthy parents. When World War I began, he joined the US 27th Aero Squadron in France during World War I. In 1918, Clayton lost his life not in combat, but in an airplane accident because aerial combat was so experimental at the time. His body was not returned to Rockford until 1920.

Question: *Would you have given up your life and joined the air force in order to fight for your country and for the thrill of adventure?*