

## TO FLY OR NOT TO FLY: AND HOW IT ALL CAME ABOUT

Source: Monica Fox

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The holiday season is a time for visiting friends and family and often we must travel to get to see our loved ones. For many, this requires boarding an airplane. As you get ready to fly, remember to celebrate “Wright Brothers Day” on December 17, a day of National Observance, designated by Congress, by a joint resolution approved December 17, 1963 (77 Stat. 402; 36 U.S.C. 143) to commemorate the first successful flights. The President is requested to issue annually a proclamation inviting the people of the United States to observe that day with appropriate ceremonies and activities. Here are some items you may want to pack to help you remember this special day.

The Chippewa River District Library has ample material for learning more about the Wright Brothers. “The flyers: in search of Wilbur and Orville Wright” is the story of Noah Adams’s journey across the country in the footsteps of the famous brothers in an attempt to know more about them, not just as inventors, but as individuals as well. James Tobin gives us a compelling account of the Wright Brothers’ race against several other inventors to take flight in “To conquer the air.”

For kids, “Airborne: a photo biography of Wilbur and Orville Wright” by Mary Collins gives a pictorial as well as a narrative view of the brothers’ experiments and triumphs with flight. The DVD “The Wright brothers” offers kids an animated look at these brave men who risked everything to become the first to manage powered flight.

Want to know more about the history of flight? “Taking flight” by Richard P. Hallion covers the aerial age from antiquity, even before Leonardo da Vinci’s famous sketches, through the flying machines of the First World War. “A century of triumph: the history of aviation” is a pictorial history of flight in the 1900’s. “Wings and Rockets” by Jeannine Atkins pays tribute to the many women who have played an important role in air and space. Military buffs will want to try “Military aircraft, origins to 1918” by Justin D. Murphy.

If your desire is to know more about how airplanes work, be sure and check out “The Wright Brothers for kids: how they invented the airplane” which includes 21 activities for exploring the science and history of flight.

If you are traveling by air this holiday season, David Blatner’s “The flying book: everything you’ve ever wondered about flying on airplanes” will get you prepared. Blatner takes you from the cockpit to the control tower, the baggage and security systems to the airplane manufacturing plant. You will also want to check the National Transportation Security Administration website for air travel advice, such as prohibited items, traveling with children, and wait times. You can find this information on their website at <http://www.tsa.gov/travelers/airtravel/index.shtm>.

If you will be staying around Mt. Pleasant instead of jetting away this holiday, library programs, including Story Time and *FREE* computer classes, will continue through the week of December 17 and will resume on January 3. Be sure to check out calendar at [www.crdl.org](http://www.crdl.org) for more details.