

## Old rocks



The pyramids. There were more than 100 built in Egypt. Many were built more than 4000 years ago. [Stonehenge, Chapter 24, might be a bit older.]

Many of the pyramids are close to the capital of Egypt, which is called Cairo.

The pyramids were built as places to put the bodies of dead kings. It was thought the kings would travel from the pyramids to Heaven.

Like Stonehenge, huge stones had to be brought, often by river, from far away.





Easter Island is a small island in the Pacific Ocean [which you can't see on many maps].

The most remarkable feature of Easter Island is more than 1000 huge statues. The indigenous people arrived on the island about 800 years ago, so these statues are not as old as Stonehenge or the Pyramids.

These statues were made to remind the indigenous people of their ancestors.

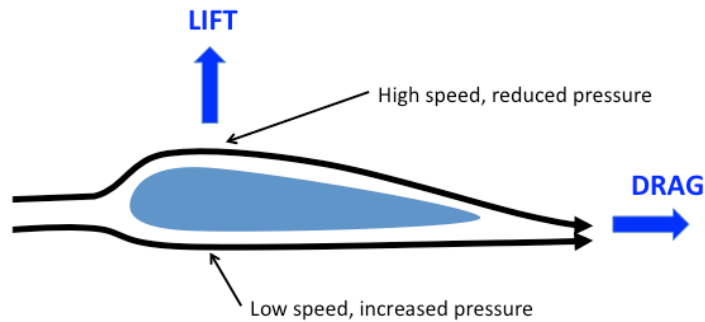
**This is amazing**

Why do planes have propellers or jets?

It is NOT to make them fly, but to go forward, fast!

So, what makes a plane go up in the air?

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[Frank Jackson, SKYbrary  
<https://www.skybrary.aero/index.php/File:Aerofoil2.png>]

It is the shape of the wings which make a plane go up in the air!! Look at a wing from the side and you will see that it is pretty flat underneath – but the top goes up like a little hill.

So, when the propellers or the jets make the plane go along the runway, very fast, the air that goes over the top of the wing has further to go than the air that goes underneath. With further to go, the air going over the top has to go faster.

So, the air on the top of the wing does not press down as hard as the air going under the wing is pressing up. This is a bit hard to understand, but the shape of the wing means that the air underneath presses up more strongly than the air going over the top, and so the plane lifts off the ground, and flies!!

## First to the poles

We know that the Earth has a big magnetic field around it, and a compass will show you which direction to go, if you feel like being very cold and uncomfortable.

When you look at a map of the world, the North Pole is at the top of the map, and the South Pole is at the bottom of the map.

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The Earth is in the shape of a ball – so, the bit closest to the Sun [the middle of the ball] is hotter than the rest of the planet – and is called the tropics.

The top and the bottom [North Pole and South Pole] are further away from the Sun, and so are really cold and covered in ice and snow.

Who was the first to get to the North Pole? We don't know. Some people thought they got there, but made a mistake, and others pretended they got there, but told lies. Whoever got there first, it would have been a bit over 100 years ago.

But we do know who was the first to get to the South Pole. There was a big race. Two teams started out in 1911. One from England led by Captain Scott and one from Norway led by Roald Amundsen.

The team from Norway got there first.



[Author: Olav Bjaaland (1863-1961)  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:At\\_the\\_South\\_Pole,\\_December\\_1911.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:At_the_South_Pole,_December_1911.jpg)]

This is a picture of the Norway team at the South Pole. Amundsen is standing on the left. You can see how terribly cold and difficult things must have been.

Sadly, Captain Scott and two of his men died on the journey back.



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**Q: Why was the belt arrested?**

**A: It was holding up some pants!**

**Q: What's E.T. short for?**

**A: Because he's only got little legs.**

**Two men meet on opposite sides of a river. One shouts to the other "I need you to help me get to the other side!" The other guy replies, "You're *on* the other side!"**

**Did you hear about the guy whose whole left side was cut off? He's all right now.**



[Author: Max van den Oetelaar  
<https://unsplash.com/photos/IRrQ0Ypp1yk>]

This is a primate – called a mandrill [it used to be thought that it was a sort of baboon, but now it has its own name].