



HISTORIC HANGARS

In 1917 three aircraft hangars were built on the airfield that used to be on the museum site. One of the hangars was destroyed by German bombs during the Second World War but the remaining two have been joined together to create the hall you are standing in today. If you look up you can still see the original wooden roof.

The aircraft now displayed in this hall span nearly 100 years of aviation history. Look at the exhibits and use the information boards to help you answer the questions.

THE RAF OVERSEAS

Look at the Shark Mouth design on the nose of the Curtiss Kittyhawk. It is an American Aircraft from the Second World War, but where did this design originally come from?

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Lots of Aeroplanes had logos or designs painted on them. Have a look out for some more as you look round the museum today.

Find the 'Forgotten Air Force' display and look at the figure of the Airman. Airmen serving in the Far East during World War Two had to survive in very hot and difficult jungle conditions. Write down 3 things the RAF gave these men to help them cope with this climate.

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Think about how these things helped the men.

The Bristol F2B aeroplane was originally built as a fighter. Aeroplanes can be used for many things other than fighting. This plane was used all over the British Empire. What jobs did this plane do?

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HISTORIC HANGARS DISCOVERY SHEET

FIGHTERS

Find the Spitfire Mk Vb. The Spitfire is probably one of the most famous fighters used during the Second World War and the Spitfire Mk Vb (1941-1945) was one of the most successful. Which major event of the Second World War did the Spitfire Mk V take part in by providing gunfire direction?
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Next to the Spitfire is the Phantom FGR2 (1968-1992) and like the Spitfire it has been highly successful. This type of aeroplane was used in the Cold War. Look carefully at the Phantom and the Spitfire and compare these two fighting aircraft. What **differences** can you see? Is there anything that is **similar**? Use the display boards to help you.

Similarities	Differences

WINGS OVER WATER

Find the Lockheed Hudson Maritime Reconnaissance Plane. The Lockheed Hudson did a lot of things first. Can you name **one** of them?
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HISTORIC HANGARS DISCOVERY SHEET

Next to the Hudson is the lifeboat the plane would have carried when it was used for search and rescue missions.

Pretend you have been put in charge of getting together the emergency supplies for a lifeboat. Choose **four** things from the list of supplies below that **you** think are the most important. Think about **why** you made the choice.

Discuss it with your class mates/ friends/ family and see if they have different ideas.

Circle your answers and remember these are **emergency** supplies!

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|---------|-------|--------|----------|---------------|
| Compass | Radio | Comics | Water | Video Games |
| Food | Torch | Flare | Umbrella | First Aid Kit |

The Supermarine Southampton 1 flying boat was one of the most successful used by the RAF. Unlike normal aeroplanes this type of aircraft can take off and land on water.

What was this plane used as before it was restored by the museum?

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WHIRLING ROTORS

Find the bright red Wessex helicopter. Why do you think it is this colour?

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This helicopter was used by the Royal Family. Which two members of the Royal Family have piloted this helicopter?

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Find the Avro Rota Autogyro. Autogyros were the first aircraft with rotor blades and were used before helicopters were invented. You can easily see how our modern helicopters were developed from autogyros.

What is the main difference between an autogyro and a helicopter?

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What can a helicopter do that an autogyro cannot?

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HISTORIC HANGARS DISCOVERY SHEET

JETS

Who invented the jet engine?
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Until the invention of the jet in the mid 1940's aeroplanes were powered by propellers. The jet engine had a huge effect on air travel. How do **you** think the invention of the jet has affected flight? Think about the **improvements**, do you think there are any **bad** points?

SAFETY

As aircraft design developed, especially after the invention of jets, safety became a more important issue. In 1944 the Martin-Baker company was asked to design and make ejector seats to improve safety.
What does an ejector seat do?
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Ejector seats have been highly successful. How many lives had the Martin-Baker ejector seat saved by 1995?
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