

# Sensory Story

## Aircraft Factory

First World War



**Curriculum links** History (First World War)

**Overview** During the First World War a man called Claude Grahame-White set up an aircraft factory on the site which is now the RAF Museum.

**Resources**

<a href="#">Factory sounds</a>	Aeroplane outline (below)
Sandpaper	Paintbrush
Glue (PVA)	Lolly sticks
<a href="#">Aeroplane sound</a>	
Metal objects x2 (which can be banged together)	
Fabric (large piece of canvas or linen)	
Piece of wood for sanding	

**Story** Inside a large green building many people work from dawn to dusk. They know their task, there's no time to rest. They need to build an aeroplane that could be the best! To help to win the war.

**Sensory** Play factory sounds

First step is to create a design. But not just any –  
Something fast, something sturdy,  
Something swift like a birdie.  
After the design is drawn up – copies must be made.

**Sensory** Trace the lines of the drawing with a pencil or finger

These copies are then handed off to teams who are standing by. Eager to make these aeroplane dreams come to life! In the wood working shop, workers cut and shape the wood Building the design piece by piece.

**Sensory** Rubbing sandpaper on a piece of wood (students supported where needed)

In the forge, workers create the metal parts by hand.  
Machines are used to make the other parts planned.  
Aluminum and steel are used to make the engines.  
Metals that are heavy must be used with thoughtful intention.

**Sensory** Bang two metal objects together

Next these pieces travel to the welding shop  
Where all these parts get put together.  
Meanwhile things are getting sticky in the 'Gluing Up' room.  
Thin pieces of wood are glued together to make the  
propellers zoom.

**Sensory** Stick two pieces of wood (eg lolly sticks) together

In the sewing room, sewing machines are constantly humming.  
Linen is sewn together to be added to the wings forthcoming.  
Once it is sewn the fabric is stretched out and  
attached tight on the wings of the plane.

**Sensory** Stretch a large piece of fabric, making it as taut as possible. Tap on the taut fabric to make a drum-like sound

Finally in the dope shop, workers paint the fabric with dope.  
This protects the fabric from water and makes it stronger.  
But the dope is very smelly. Some workers feel quite unwell.  
Doctors tell them to drink milk to help with the smell.

**Sensory** Use a paintbrush to 'paint' the fabric

At last everything is done, it's time to roll the plane out.  
A pilot waits eagerly for their new ride and gives a shout.  
The engine starts, and he is up and away,  
Meanwhile the workers already have another plane under way.

**Sensory** Aeroplane sounds

