

Today you will research hot-air balloons. You will read "Soaring 'on the Wings of the Wind.'" Then you will read "Riding the Wind." As you review these sources, you will gather information and answer questions about hot-air balloons so you can write an essay.

Soaring 'on the Wings of the Wind' [Riding the Wind](#)

Read the article "Soaring 'on the Wings of the Wind.'" Then answer the questions.

### Soaring 'on the Wings of the Wind'

by Lois Miner Huey

- 1 On June 24, 1784, Edward Warren Jr. made history as the first American to go up in a hot-air balloon. He was 13 years old.
- 2 Peter Carnes, a Maryland innkeeper and lawyer, placed a small iron stove in a balloon basket one fine June day in Bladensburg, Maryland. He then set fire to the straw and wool inside the stove. Smoky hot air swelled the balloon and sent it up. Carnes had done it. He was the first American to develop a method to lift a balloon using hot air.
- 3 Carnes decided to try it again 10 days later in nearby Baltimore. A huge crowd gathered as he launched a tethered balloon, 35 feet wide and 30 feet tall, 200 feet into the air. The crowd yelled and clapped as Carnes sent the balloon up time and again.
- 4 By late day, the people shouted to send a person into the air.



#### The Boy Flies

- 5 Carnes weighed more than 200 pounds—too heavy for the balloon. He wasn't sure what to do. Luckily, 13-year-old Edward Warren Jr. stepped forward and exclaimed that he'd go. Edward's parents nodded in approval. They believed the balloon was safe because it was tethered to the ground with ropes.
- 6 The crowd roared as Carnes helped Edward climb into the basket. While Carnes stirred the fire in the stove, Edward stood holding the ropes, staring up into the huge balloon over his head. He probably wondered if the balloon would indeed be safe.
- 7 Hot air from the stove burst upward. The balloon slowly rose. Newspaper reporters in Baltimore described Edward as having the courage of "an old Voyager." The onlookers screamed themselves hoarse. Edward stared down at the top of the city, its people growing smaller and smaller, and out at the bay in the distance. He was the first American to see such views.
- 8 Edward smiled and tore off his hat and waved it. The crowd yelled louder, and men waved their hats in return.
- 9 Carnes left Edward 200 feet in the air for several minutes before pulling him down. With shaky legs, Edward climbed from the basket. The audience cheered, clapped, and collected money for the boy, a reward for his bravery. By flying "on the wings of the wind," Edward Warren Jr. had played a big part in the history of flight.
- 10 Ballooning was soon popular at fairs and festivals. During the Civil War, both sides used them for spying. About 100 years after Carnes's experiment, gasoline engines in airplanes replaced hot air and wind, and people soared even higher.



#### Early Ballooning in France

- 11 Less than a year before Carnes lifted his balloon in Bladensburg, French inventors and brothers Joseph and Étienne Montgolfier sent a sheep, rooster, and duck into the air. The animals rode in an untethered (not tied down) hot-air balloon for two miles, then landed safely. American representative John Jay, who was in France negotiating the end of the Revolutionary War, proclaimed, "Travellers may hereafter literally pass from country to country on the wings of the wind." The first humans soon followed, flying in a Montgolfier hot-air balloon over Paris.

Using the information in both articles, describe the steps to flying and landing hot-air balloons. How are the articles different or similar in how they describe these steps? Use examples from **both** articles to support your answer.

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