

Solar-powered plane makes history

6th July, 2015



A solar-powered plane has made history by flying from Japan to Hawaii, a journey of almost 6,500 kilometres. The plane is called Solar Impulse 2. Solar panels that cover the plane

convert the sun's rays into power. Scientists hope that all airplanes in the future will fly using solar power. Solar Impulse 2 landed in Hawaii after a 118-hour flight across the Pacific Ocean. Swiss pilot Andre Borschberg tweeted about his feelings after arriving in Hawaii. He wrote: "Just landed in Hawaii with Solar Impulse....It's a dream coming true." The flight broke the record for the longest journey made by a solo pilot in an unfuelled plane. The previous record was 76 hours, set by American pilot Steve Fossett in 2006.

Solar Impulse 2 is attempting to fly around the world using only solar power. It set off from Abu Dhabi in March and stopped in Oman, India, Myanmar and China. Its next stop will be Arizona in the USA. From there it will fly to New York, before heading to Europe and then back to Abu Dhabi. One of the aims of the journey is to raise awareness about climate change and renewable energy. Solar Impulse 2 co-pilot Bertrand Piccard told the USA Today newspaper that: "The most important thing isn't to make world records. It's to show what we can do with clean technologies." This is important for our planet because airplanes produce around 12 per cent of the CO2 from all sources of transportation.

Sources: *Newsweek.com / USA Today / CNN.com*

Writing

Compare solar power, wind power and power from oil? Which is better? Why?

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

solar / power / make history / flying / journey / pilot / feelings / dream coming true / fly around the world / New York / Europe / Abu Dhabi / climate change / energy / CO2

True / False

- A plane using solar power flew 6,500 km from Hawaii to Japan. T / F
- Scientists say that all planes will be solar-powered by 2020. T / F
- The flight took 118 hours. T / F
- The previous record for an unfuelled flight was 206 hours in 1976. T / F
- Solar Impulse 2 began its journey in Abu Dhabi in March. T / F
- Solar Impulse 2 will end its journey in Abu Dhabi. T / F
- The co-pilot said the most important thing was to break the record. T / F
- Airplanes account for 12% of all CO2 produced by transportation. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1. journey | a. trying |
| 2. convert | b. touched down |
| 3. landed | c. create |
| 4. solo | d. transform |
| 5. previous | e. demonstrate |
| 6. attempting | f. left |
| 7. set off | g. unaccompanied |
| 8. heading | h. trip |
| 9. show | i. going |
| 10. produce | j. earlier |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you know about the plane Solar Impulse 2?
- What do you think about the plane Solar Impulse 2?
- Would you like to join the pilot and fly around the world?
- How dangerous do you think the flight across the Pacific was?
- What's the longest journey you've been on?
- How important is solar power?
- Which of your dreams would you like to come true?
- How safe do you think flying is?

BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. A solar-powered plane has | a. about climate change |
| 2. convert the sun's rays | b. in Hawaii |
| 3. Just landed | c. was 76 hours |
| 4. The flight broke | d. to fly around the world |
| 5. The previous record | e. of transportation |
| 6. attempting | f. made history |
| 7. raise awareness | g. technologies |
| 8. renewable | h. into power |
| 9. show what we can do with clean | i. energy |
| 10. the CO2 from all sources | j. the record |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about climate change?
- What are the dangers of climate change?
- What do you do to help the Earth from global warming?
- What do you know about renewable energies?
- What message do you have for the Solar Impulse 2 pilots?
- What do you think flying will be like in 100 years from now?
- What more can we do to reduce CO2?
- What would you like to ask the pilots of Solar Impulse 2?

Spelling

- a yoerjn of almost 6,500 kilometres
- ertncvo the sun's rays into power
- airplanes in the uterfu
- Andre Borschberg tweeted about his eilfesng
- the lgesotn journey
- The uvprseoi record was 76 hours
- emagtpntti to fly around the world
- raise senawrsa about climate change
- awlnerebe energy
- The most ptanmiotr thing
- what we can do with clean eshgoetnocil
- all csseuor of transportation

Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. d	3. b	4. g	5. j
6. a	7. f	8. i	9. e	10. c

Role Play

Role A – Aiplanes

You think airplanes are the best things to use solar power. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): ambulances, mobile phones or traffic signals.

Role B – Ambulances

You think ambulances are the best things to use solar power. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): airplanes, mobile phones or traffic signals.

Role C – Mobile phones

You think mobile phones are the best things to use solar power. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): ambulances, airplanes or traffic signals.

Role D – Traffic signals

You think traffic signals are the best things to use solar power. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): ambulances, mobile phones or airplanes.

Speaking – Solar things

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- solar street lights
- solar airplane
- solar traffic signals
- solar watch
- solar train
- solar car
- solar mobile phone
- solar ambulance

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	F	h	T
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.