

Weekly Academic Review

The Dream of Flight

Week 22

Directions: Read to find out if people long ago thought about flying. Mark the location of the answers on any question that labels which paragraph the answer can be found.

1 The week after Pat spoke at her niece's school, she and Charlie flew to the West Coast. As Charlie was checking the instruments during the flight, he thought about how close to the sun he was flying. Its light was so bright that the sun seemed near. Yet he knew it was about a hundred million miles away, and its temperature was a warm ten thousand degrees Fahrenheit.

2 At the same time, Pat was also daydreaming. "Do you think there was ever a time when people didn't think about flying?" she asked out of the blue. "I mean, I've wanted to fly all my life, but I knew it was possible. It was just a matter of getting the opportunity to do it. Maybe people don't think about something if they don't think it can be done."

3 "Oh, I'm sure people dreamed about flying and watched the birds to try to figure out how wings were different from arms," Charlie answered.

4 "How can you be sure?" asked Pat.

5 "Actually, I once read a Greek myth about a man and his son who were able to fly. It had to have been written at least two thousand years ago," Charlie explained.

6 "I'm all ears," Pat said impatiently.

7 "Well," Charlie began, "in ancient Greece there was a man named Daedalus. He was a skillful architect. King Minos, the king of Crete, had Daedalus design and build a maze from which there was almost no escape. You could travel through it forever without finding the exit. To make things worse, inside the maze lived a cruel monster.

8 "King Minos learned that someone had killed this monster and that several prisoners had escaped. He knew Daedalus was the only one smart enough to have helped them. Daedalus had, in fact, told the girlfriend of one prisoner how to escape. He said that as the prisoner walked through the maze, he should leave a trail of string. If he wanted to escape, all he needed to do was to follow the string. As punishment for helping his enemies, King Minos imprisoned Daedalus and his son, Icarus, in the maze.

9 "But when Daedalus was sent into the maze, he did not have any string with him. He soon realized that the only way of escape was by air. For this purpose, he designed and made two pairs of wings.

10 "When the wings were complete, Daedalus warned Icarus not to fly too close to the sun. He told him that the beeswax adhesive that held the wings together might melt. Then father and son put on the wings and took off into the sky. But Icarus, being immature, was so thrilled with flying that he soared higher and higher, not paying any attention to his father's warning. When he neared the sun, the wings fell apart, and he dropped into the sea."

11 "What a sad story!" Pat exclaimed. "But you're right. People must have dreamed about flying to tell a story like that."

12 "But until the last two hundred years," Charlie said, "it was an impossible dream."



Knowing the Words

Write the words from the story that have the meanings below.

1. story or legend _____
(Par. 5)
2. confusing network of paths _____
(Par. 7)
3. put in jail _____
(Par. 8)
4. substance that holds things together _____
(Par. 10)

Write the actual meaning of these idioms.

5. out of the blue _____

6. I'm all ears _____

7. Check the sentence in which *figure* has the same meaning as in paragraph 3.

- _____ Divide this figure into that one to get the answer.
- _____ Did you figure out the mystery?
- _____ There was one lonely figure in the painting.

8. Check the sentence in which *right* has the same meaning as in paragraph 11.

- _____ Turn right at the corner.
- _____ The magazine was right there on the table.
- _____ You were right about the situation

Working with Words

The prefix -im often means "not." Write the meaning of each word below.

1. impatient _____
2. immature _____
3. impossible _____
4. impolite _____

Reading and Thinking

1. Check the word that best describes the feeling or mood of the atmosphere in the cockpit.

- _____ scary _____ humorous
_____ relaxed _____ tense

2. Check the word that best describes Minos.

- _____ ugly _____ cruel
_____ funny _____ skillful

3. What do you think made Charlie think of the story about Daedalus and Icarus?

4. Check the conclusion you can make about the flying weather in this story.

- _____ The sky was dark and stormy.
_____ The sky was full of snow.
_____ There was a clear blue sky.

5. How hot is the sun?

Learning to Study

1. To find out more about Icarus, Daedalus, and King Minos, you could use reference sources. Put a **1** before the best source of this information. Put a **2** before the second-best source.

- _____ almanac _____ encyclopedia
_____ newspaper _____ dictionary
_____ atlas _____ a book of myths

Write the names of the two reference sources you could use to find facts about the sun.

1. _____
2. _____