

NOVEMBER
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Today in 1763

the Montgolfier Brothers made the first flight in a hot-air balloon.

- The brothers were two of sixteen children.
- The idea for a balloon came as they watched a shirt dry by the fire.
- The sections of the balloon were held together with buttons!
- The first 'live' ascent was made by a sheep, a cockerel, and a duck.

Word of the day

ascend To travel up. From the Latin 'ascendere'. 'Ad' and 'scandere' (to climb).

Quote of the day



*There's something in a flying horse,
There's something in a huge balloon;
But through the clouds I'll never float
Until I have a little Boat,
Shaped like the crescent moon.*

William Wordsworth

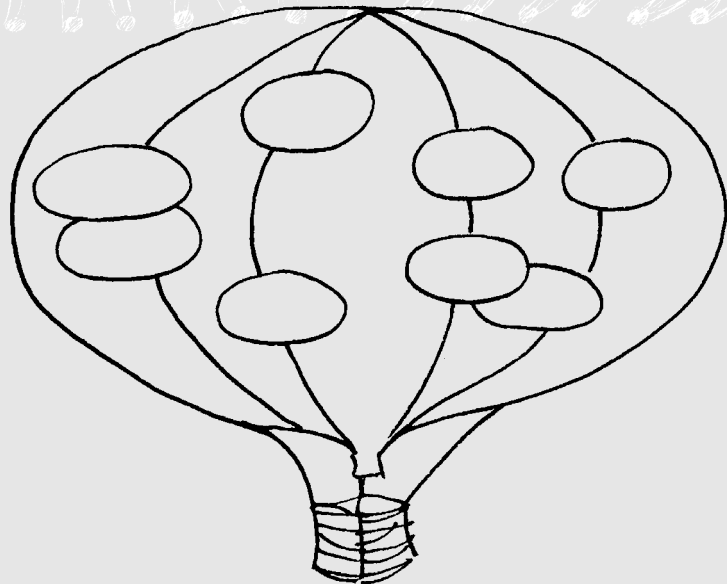
Imagine...

'Hi and welcome to all our viewers joining us for the live telecast of this truly historic event. Yes, folks, today, just a few metres away from where I stand, the Montgolfier Brothers intend to launch a 'balloon' containing a number of real live animals! Let's cross to Jennifer in the studio who's going to explain just what a "balloon" is, and how it works...' Write an on-the-spot account (complete with interviews with the sheep, cockerel and duck) of the Montgolfier Brothers' famous first ascent.

Activity of the day

Patch the balloon

The Montgolfier Brothers' Balloon was made up of two different coloured stripes. Soon it got a few holes in it and had to be patched. The Brothers didn't want any patch to touch a stripe of the same colour, or another patch of the same colour. What's the least number of colours they could use?



Answers: Four