

Military Airplanes

Gabriel Voisin was one of the most productive aircraft designers of the First World War. On October 5, 1914, the Voisin III, became the first Allied plane to shoot down an enemy aircraft.

Voisin became the standard Allied bomber in the early years of the war. Successive models were more powerful and over 800 were purchased by the French Army Air Service. The Royal Flying Corps and the Russia and Belgian air forces also used them in the war. The Voisin V first appeared in 1915. It was the first bomber to be armed with a cannon instead of a machine-gun.

Planes like these could reach speeds of about 75 miles per hour and be at an altitude of 11,500 feet. Eventually, as the war progressed planes began to become more advanced and had increased features, which planes like this one did not have. Some advances used in planes were to fire bullets and the dropping of bombs. This became a real problem later in the war as it became harder to protect oneself from planes.



WWI New Technologies Analysis

After learning about WWI, this activity allows you to explore the new technologies and devices which came out from this world war. Here is what your group will do:

1. Have someone in your group read the description and brief background about your particular device. Other students in the group should follow along taking note and pulling out the important information. Jot down a brief (3 or 4 sentence) paragraph summary.

2. Look at the image at the bottom of the page. Think about these questions when viewing it.
 - a. What ways do you think the device was used and how do you think it was utilized when fighting? Why?

 - b. By looking at your weapon do you think it was light weight and easy to maneuver to the battle grounds? How do you think it was operated?

3. Figure out a solution to the following dilemma: *If you were a soldier on either front (you pick a side) and you wanted to protect yourself from enemy fire from these weapons, what methods or ways would you use to counteract them and protect yourself?* (Example: If your enemy fought on a horse and you were a foot soldier, whose men continued to die by the horsemen, maybe your army would begin to wear protective armor or start riding on a horse.)