

WeDo 2.0



education

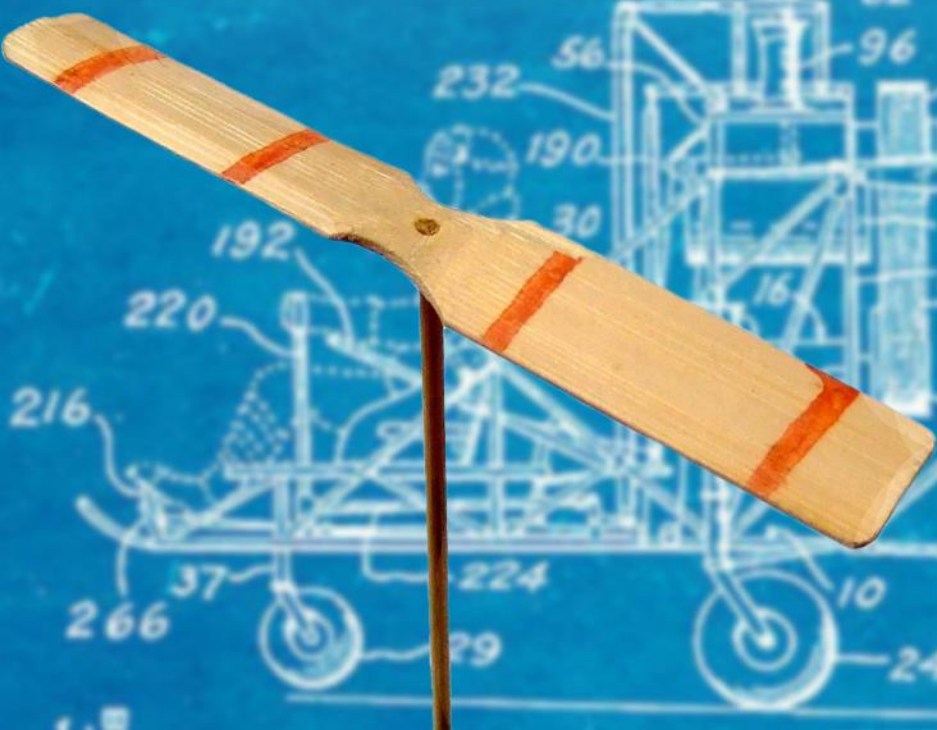


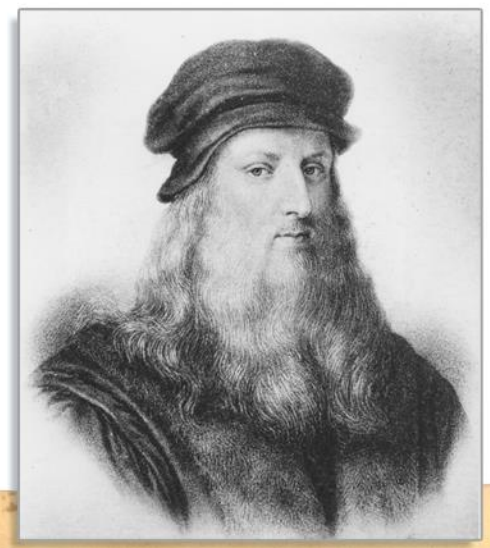
Lesson 3: The Amazing Helicopter

Did you know it's argued among historians that this ancient Chinese spinning toy led to the invention of the modern day helicopter? Let's dig deeper!

The Chinese Bamboo Dragonfly or commonly known as a Chinese Top, was a toy invention made in 400 BC. That's well over 2,000 years ago!

Can you guess why this ancient little toy from long ago may have influenced the design and creation of the modern helicopter?





This Chinese helicopter toy was introduced into Europe and appeared in Renaissance European paintings and it inspired the drawings and imagination of Leonardo da Vinci.

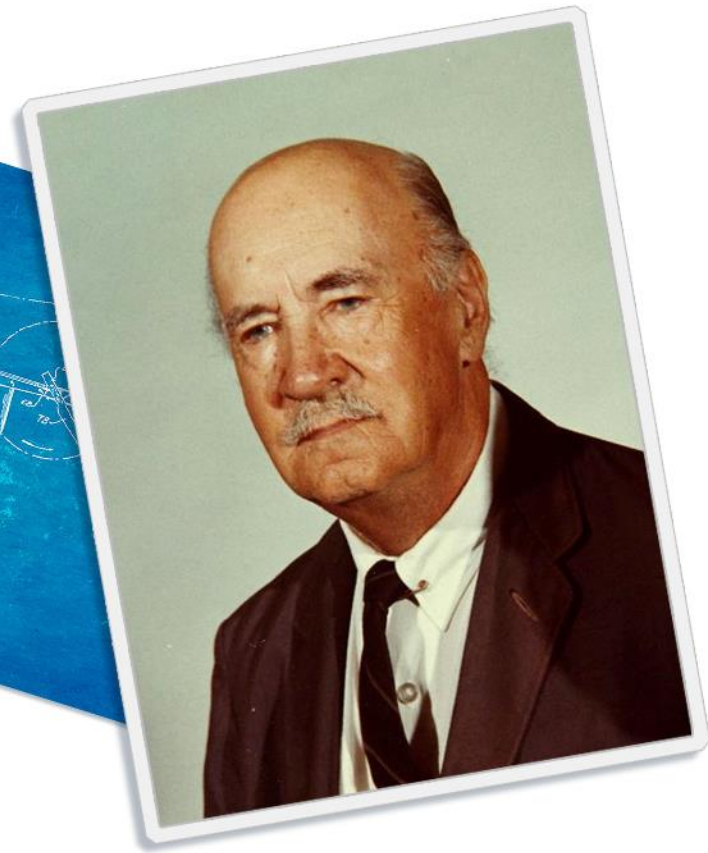
Fourteen hundred years later it was to be one of the key elements in the birth of modern aeronautics in the West. Aeronautics means the science or practice of travel through the air. Early Western scientists developed flying machines based upon the original Chinese model.



The man you see here was Igor Sikorsky. He is considered the father of the modern helicopter. After many centuries, this aviation designer and inventor finally successfully created the world's first mass produced helicopter in 1942.

This helicopter was called the Sikorsky R-4. The United States military branches of the Army, Navy, Coast Guard was his first customer! The Royal British Air Force also purchased his helicopters.

Igor's purpose for his helicopter was to save lives. He believed that the helicopter would be a critical machine in rescuing people. He believed that the helicopter would be able to reach areas that no plane or land vehicle would be able to. This turned out to be very true because as soon as the U.S. Military bought the Sikorsky R-4, the helicopters were successfully used to save many lives in war.





Do you think you could name some situations where a helicopter would be the best choice in rescuing people?

Can you name me some government rescue teams that would use a helicopter?





As you can see in all these amazing photographs, the helicopter has so many uses. The helicopter is used in everything from rescuing people in the mountains, to picking up military soldiers in combat, fighting forest fires and helping police catch criminals during the night.



This is The Future of Helicopters!



Small scale drones use the same technology as that of helicopters. Today anyone can take amazing aerial video footage by using a drone with a high quality camera attached to it.



The military is currently designing helicopter drones for uses in surveillance and unfortunately, for conflict.



The Future of Helicopters... Continued.

Make sure to do a YouTube search on Darpa Helicopter

Darpa is the United States Military's Advanced Research Center and they are designing and creating a helicopter with legs just like a dragonfly!



**Now let's build our own LEGO
rescue helicopter!**

