

FAA

The mission of the (American) Federal Aviation Administration is to provide the safest, most efficient aerospace system in the world. Learn more about how that mission is accomplished at <http://www.faa.gov/>.



A) Wildlife Strike Database

Go to: <http://wildlife.faa.gov/default.aspx>

The FAA Wildlife Strike Database contains records of reported wildlife strikes since 1990. Strike reporting is voluntary. The database represents the information the FAA received from airlines, airports, pilots, and other sources.

1	Search the database by selecting an airport in a major city. If, at first, you don't see any reported incidents, try another airport. Keep trying until you get a list of reported incidents.
2	List some of the commercial airliners that reported an incident.
3	Did most of them sustain damage or not?
4	List some of the wildlife listed that had an unfortunate encounter with an aircraft.
5	How does the reporting system work?
6	Go to http://www.faa.gov/airports/airport_safety/wildlife/gallery/ and browse the photo gallery of wildlife strikes. Read the descriptions. Did any of the strikes result in fatalities among pilots and/or passengers?

B) Air traffic

Go to: http://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/briefing/

The FAA claims that the United States' Air Traffic Control System is the safest in the world.

1	About how many aircraft are in the air over the US at any given time?
2	At what rate is air traffic in the US expected to grow?
3	Does every airport in the US currently have a tower? Explain.
4	What is <i>NextGen</i> ?

C) Overflight Fees

Go to: http://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/international_aviation/overflight_fees/

Does the FAA charge air traffic for flying over American soil (and water)? Find out.

1	Explain how <i>overflight fees</i> are structured. Include amounts, areas, and distances mentioned.
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D) Delays

Go to: http://www.transtats.bts.gov/OT_Delay/OT_DelayCause1.asp

Lots of air travelers complain about flight delays. Find out whether or not these delays occur frequently and what causes them.

1	Record the data for August 2013 for the entire US.
2	Record the data for JetBlue Airlines at LaGuardia Airport in New York. Comment on any notable differences with the national percentages.

E) Becoming a pilot

Go to: <http://av-info.faa.gov/PilotSchool.asp>

Ever thought of learning to fly a plane or helicopter? It is fairly common in the US for people to get their pilot's license. Many states depend on air traffic for transportation.

1	How many pilot schools does Texas have?
2	List the pilot schools in Texas that seem to be run by colleges.
3	List the pilot schools in Alaska. Why is flying (smaller) airplanes in Alaska of such vital importance?

F) The FAA in the news

Because there is so much air traffic in the United States, news stories involving planes abound. The FAA is often involved or quoted, since it is the federal authority regarding any and all air traffic. Check out the following two news stories.

1	http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ud7y1rzokiA This video is about airplane crashes and emergency landings due to wildlife strikes. Explain what 'the miracle on the Hudson' was and what happened on one of the American vice-president's (Joe Biden) flights.
2	The FAA recently announced that it will allow the use of cell phones and other portable electronic devices during take-offs and landings. This didn't used to be the case. Check out this video and summarise what happened to this <i>New York Times</i> best-selling author. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FEVVe3QINyE