



Student Printable to Accompany Lesson Plan: Rewriting History
Lesson plan located at www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/rewriting-history.shtml

*Directions: The passage below contains a little-known truth about American historical figure **Charles Lindbergh**. Look for **bolded text** that will tell you the reason why people may have gotten information wrong about this individual. After reading the passage and doing Internet research, you will write a newspaper story about what you learn. Follow your teacher's directions about how to do this.*

Few individual achievements have been as celebrated as [Charles Lindbergh's](#) crossing the Atlantic Ocean in 1927. The accomplishment made him an instant celebrity and one of the most well-known people in the world. He was heralded as an American hero and a titan of aviation.

He was so famous that the news of his child's [kidnapping](#) made headlines across the globe. The Lindbergh kidnapping was easily the most-followed story of the 1930s and is still referenced to this day on shows like [The Simpsons](#) and [Family Guy](#).

The problem here is that [two British pilots](#) had already crossed the Atlantic eight years before Lindbergh.

In 1919, British aviators John [Alcock](#) and Arthur Brown departed Newfoundland and 16 hours later, landed safely in Ireland, successfully crossing the Atlantic Ocean. Just like Lindbergh after them, they were treated like celebrities because of their accomplishment. King George V made them Knights of the Realm, and Sir Winston Churchill personally awarded them a sizeable cash prize.

The reason that [Alcock and Brown](#) are lost to history is largely because **Americans tend not to care about events outside America**. Thus, when Lindbergh made his more impressive—although second-place—finish, he was propped up as a hero. In fact, when Lindbergh was awarded the Medal of Honor in the U.S., [the inscription](#) read that he “demonstrated that travel across the ocean by aircraft was possible,” completely ignoring the [Alcock/Brown flight](#). Sadly for the British pair, they remain forgotten, [even in Europe](#).