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Aircraft: The Definitive Visual History



Synopsis

From the first prototypes of flying machines to today's supersonic jets, the history and roles of aircraft are explored in this beautifully illustrated guide. Aviation enthusiasts of all stripes and ages will welcome learning more about key brands and big players from yesterday and today — whether it's the marvels of hot air balloons or the fantastic engines of Boeing, Lockheed, and more. Planes are divided equally between military and commercial aircraft, and iconic aircraft of each era, such as the Supermarine Spitfire and Concorde, are showcased in beautifully photographed spreads with "virtual tours" that reveal the anatomy of these legendary planes. Produced in association with the Smithsonian Institution.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Very, very cool book. The DK publishing titles just keep getting better. This is a visual history of aircraft broken up into chapters by decade. There are a few things that make it unique and more interesting than just a book of profile shots of aircraft. In each chapter they will usually focus on a single aircraft in detail, and include a couple pages of "detail" photographs. This is visually interesting as you get maybe 20 small close up images of details of the aircraft (a pulley, fuel cap, throttle, instrument, logo, etc.) which together give a feel for the craft which you just would not get from even a series of whole-plane shots. In addition to focusing on various iconic aircraft in this detail, another theme throughout the book is the history of the development of the aircraft engines that made these machines possible. Most chapters will pick out an iconic engine of the day and provide a two page spread talking about it in detail. The third area of focus is on great aircraft

companies throughout history and they pick out several and tell you about them in more detail. Overall the images are varied and interesting beyond just the catalog of aircraft, and there are short side bars on topics like airport design, aircraft carriers, etc. but these lack the depth of the other focus areas and often seem to be an excuse to include a particular image that the editors liked. Another reviewer complained about the lack of text in this book, but I found it to have a higher amount of information than many such "picture book" histories. But make no mistake, this is not a "history book for history buffs".

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