Flying the Southern Cross Route
Seventy-Five years of Australian Commercial Air Service to North America
AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM FOR SECOND AND THIRD GRADE STUDENTS

Following the historic first flight from North America to Australia by Charles Kingsford Smith and crew in 1928, the transpacific “Southern Cross” route—named after the aircraft they flew, the Fokker F.VII/3m Southern Cross—received worldwide fame. After World War II, BCPA (British Commonwealth Pacific Airlines) and ANA (Australian National Airways) commenced commercial air services on their branded “Southern Cross Route” between Australia and San Francisco via Fiji and Hawai‘i. When Qantas Empire Airways acquired BCPA in 1954, the airline assumed operations of the route. Since then, Qantas has continuously offered premier air service between the two continents on the most advanced airliners of the day. Through a diverse collection of airliner models, promotional items, meal service wares, cabin crew uniforms, and photographs, *Flying the Southern Cross Route* presents a legacy of Australian air service on this long celebrated route that connects two diverse regions and both hemispheres.

This is a free, hands-on educational program designed for Second and Third Grade students centered on the current exhibition *Flying the Southern Cross Route*.

The program includes directed looking, exploring the history of aviation and the development of the transpacific air route between Australia and North America, as well as a hands-on activity to learn about the basic principles of powered flight by making and flying paper airplanes.

The program is guided by experienced museum and library staff and runs 45 minutes. Additional activities are also available. Please see the California Department of Education Content Standards on the next page for the subject areas that are addressed in this program.

*Flying the Southern Cross Route* can accommodate up to approximately 30 students at a time. Special arrangements can be made for groups larger than 30.
PROGRAM PLAN

SCHEDULE:

• Students arrive at the aviation museum and library and deposit bags, jackets, etc.
• Staff introductions, welcoming remarks, and description of the two planned activities.
• Students are divided into two groups.
  • One group will do the FIND IT! ACTIVITY through an exploration of the Flying the Southern Cross Route
  • One group will do the FLY IT! ACTIVITY by discussing how airplanes fly and then making and flying paper airplanes.
• Allow 15–20 minutes for activity, then groups will switch activities.
• Conclusion and wrap-up.

NOTE: Additional guided museum activities and airport tours are also available to extend class visits as described on page 5.
**FIND IT! ACTIVITY**

**OBJECTIVES:**

- Look closely at the *Flying the Southern Cross Route* exhibition
- Imagine what it would be like to fly from San Francisco to Australia during different decades.
- Learn about the different types of airliners that flew this route.
- Learn about the flight attendants and passengers who flew this route.
- Compare historical airliners to modern ones

Students are divided into teams of two or three. Each team receives a *FIND IT!* postcard with an image of an object that they must find in the exhibition. Once all teams have found their object, the group explores all the found objects together through questioning, discussion, and directed looking.

Below are examples of the *FIND IT!* postcards. Cards are designed for second and third grade reading levels.

1. **This postcard shows two airplanes.** One is a British Commonwealth Pacific Airlines Douglas DC-6 airliner from the late 1940s. It was equipped with sleeping berths for the passengers. The other is a Fokker Trimotor named “The Southern Cross.” It was flown on a famous first flight from America to Australia in 1928. Can you find these two aircraft in the Museum?

   **Terms:** Douglas DC-6 airliner, sleeping berth, Fokker Trimotor, Southern Cross Route

2. **This flight attendant dress by Australian designer Peter Morrissey featured a unique Australian Aboriginal pattern with boomerangs and circular motifs called “Wirriyarr,” which means “My Spirit Home” in the Yanyuwa Aboriginal language.** Can you find this dress in the exhibition?

   **Terms:** Australian Aboriginal, boomerang
**FLY IT! ACTIVITY**

**OBJECTIVES:**

• Understand the basic principles of how an airplane flies
• Learn about the different ways an airplane can move: pitch, roll, and yaw
• Make a paper airplane and test fly it

Students learn about the basic principles of how an airplane flies using a simple wing section and models. Students demonstrate the pitch, roll, and yaw movements of an airplane with their bodies. Each student makes a paper airplane and then test flies it. Older students can measure results.

Example of a paper airplane pattern for the *FLY IT! ACTIVITY*
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STANDARDS

*Flying the Southern Cross Route* relates to the following California Department of Education content standards:

**GRADE TWO**

**HISTORY/SOCIAL STUDIES:**

2.1 Students differentiate between things that happened long ago and things that happened yesterday.

2.1.2 Compare and contrast their daily lives with those of their parents, grandparents, and/or guardians.

2.5 Students understand the importance of individual action and character and explain how heroes from long ago and the recent past have made a difference in others’ lives.

**PHYSICAL SCIENCES:**

1. The motion of objects can be observed and measured. As a basis for understanding this concept:
   
   c. Students know the way to change how something is moving is by giving it a push or a pull.
   
   The size of the change is related to the strength, or the amount of force, of the push or pull.
   
   d. Students know tools and machines are used to apply pushes and pulls (forces) to make things move.
   
   e. Students know objects fall to the ground unless something holds them up.

**GRADE THREE**

**HISTORY/SOCIAL STUDIES:**

3.3 Students draw from historical and community resources to organize the sequence of local historical events and describe how each period of settlement left its mark on the land.

**MATHEMATICS:**

Measurement and Geometry

1.0 Students choose and use appropriate units and measurement tools to quantify the properties of objects.
THE AVIATION MUSEUM AND LIBRARY AT SFO

The San Francisco Airport Commission Aviation Library and Louis A. Turpen Aviation Museum opened in December 2000 as part of SFO Museum. Museum visitors and library patrons of all ages can discover and learn about the history of air travel and the role that commercial aviation plays in our everyday lives.

![1937 Airport Passenger Lobby](image1)
![Aviation Museum and Library](image2)

The Aviation Museum and Library is housed within an architectural adaptation of San Francisco’s original 1937 airport passenger lobby. The permanent collection focuses on the history of commercial aviation with an emphasis on the West Coast and the Pacific region. Museum exhibitions and research services in the library and archives are offered free to the public. Educational programs are held in this unique facility, which is also available for private events. Open daily, **10:00 AM to 4:30 PM**, closed holidays. The aviation museum and library is located pre-security and admission is free.

**TO SCHEDULE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND TOURS, CONTACT:**

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YOUR VISIT TO SFO MUSEUM

SFO IS A GREAT DESTINATION FOR YOUR CLASS!

• Museum and library admission, educational programs, and tours are all free.
• Educational programs and tours can be customized for more individualized education and adapted to suit higher-grade levels, and mixed-aged groups.

YOU CAN EXTEND YOUR VISIT

• Bring your lunch and sit in the public dining areas adjacent to the aviation museum, or select from the many restaurants at SFO.
• Take a tour of the airport and ride the AirTrain (by prior arrangement and availability).
• Meet the trained service dogs of the SFPD Airport K-9 Unit and see them in action (by prior arrangement and availability).
• Visit other museum exhibitions at SFO. (Schedules are subject to change, please check www.sfomuseum.org/exhibitions for updated information).

TRANSPORTATION

Take Public Transportation:
Take BART directly into SFO International Terminal, where the aviation museum and library are located. Take SamTrans Routes KX and 292 directly to SFO. Take Caltrain to BART for service to SFO.

By School Bus/Charter Bus:
Parking for buses is available at no charge by prior arrangement only.

By Car:
Groups booked for educational programs can park in Airport garages and Airport parking tickets can be validated at the aviation museum at no charge.

For more information on transportation to SFO go to: www.flysfo.com
For the aviation museum and library location go to: www.sfomuseum.org/aviation-museum-library/hours-directions