



AL MAHATTA MUSEUM

Pre and Post Visit Materials

Al Mahatta Museum is considered to be the first airport in the UAE, built in 1932. From man's first attempts to fly to landing on the moon, explore the history of flight and the development of aviation in this region.

Watch an interesting film about the daily life at the airport and Sharjah Town during the 30th century and experience first-hand this fascinating period of Sharjah's history. The original propeller planes, fully restored, stand guard in the hangar alongside the original refueling tanker.



هيئة الشارقة للمتاحف
Sharjah Museums Authority



متحف المحطة
Al Mahatta Museum

Al Mahatta	First airport built in the Gulf in 1932 by British Airways. The main purpose of the airport was to supply fuel between Bahrain and Karachi and for passengers to rest.
Avro Anson 1G-Akv	This Aircraft was built by the British RU for the Royal Air Force for two Purposes. The first purpose was to train school aviation and secondly to control the air traffic. Avro Anson served in the gulf region until 1935.
Rubiya	An old currency which was used in the Gulf before the union of the seven emirates. This currency was issued by the government of India and it was divided into 100 paisa.
Passenger Plane	Unlike the cargo plane, which only carries goods, the passenger plane is mainly to take passengers from one place to another. The travel purpose could be for business, leisure or visiting family and friends.
Sharjah Cinema	The first cinema in the Gulf Area which was established in 1945.
Black Box	One of the greatest safety inventions for the commercial airline industry which was invented by David Waron. The Black Box helps to ensure that flight data records are protected in case of plane crash. The inventor of the Black Box died in 22 July 2010.
Comet	This aircraft was the first commercial jet aircraft in the world. It carried the same colours of the plane BOAC by the British Airways nowadays. Comet was the fastest airplane at the time and the longest flight was from London to Khartoum.
DH114 Heron	This aircraft was used to transport passengers in 1956. DH114 Heron joined the Gulf Air which had regular flights to Bahrain - Doha -Sharjah - Muscat and back again to Sharjah every Monday of the month. The plane crashed in the land of Doha in 1958 and a company from England bought

it after the crash. Also it was known as Om Ahmed (mother of Ahmed), The plane was named after a woman who gave birth to a baby boy called Ahmed during her trip to Bahrain.

Landing Area

A deserted land fenced and equipped for planes to land. Nowadays this runway is a paved surface and equipped with a completely flat lighting and signs sufficient to help the plane land in the right place without any damages.

Weather Data Book

A registry book goes back to 75 years in which the officers working at Al Mahatta wrote and documented their daily weather observation. This helped to know the condition of the weather so planes could land safely.

Metrological instruments

These machines were used to collect data on the status of the atmosphere around the world. Then they were used to prepare maps showing the temperature atmospheric pressure and the movement of wind and humidity in different area. Examples of these devices are the barometer and thermometer.

Cockpit

The front of the piloted aircraft in which the pilot controls the plane. It is also known as the flight deck.

Air navigation

The officers who worked at Al Mahatta ensured the safety of the plane by estimating the time of landing, controlling and directing the coming planes.

Hano plane

The first plane landed at Al Mahatta in 1932 by the captain Horsy with 11 passengers.

These key questions are designed to help families, school groups and individuals to get more out of their visit to the museum. Please ask any of the museum staff to help you with answering these questions if you need further support.

1. What does the word Al Mahatta mean?
2. In which year was Al Mahatta built?
3. Who was the ruler of Sharjah back in 1932?
4. Who built Al Mahatta? Why?
5. What was the role of Al Mahatta?
6. What was the fee in return of renting Al Mahatta land?
7. What was the fee for each plane landing in Al Mahatta?
8. What is the difference between the cargo plane and passenger plane?
9. What was the name of the company that provided aircraft refuelling at the station in the past?
10. What were the destinations that flights departed to from Sharjah?
11. What was the first plane landed in Sharjah? When?
12. What was the role of the control tower at Al Mahatta?
13. What were the safety devices founded in the plane?
14. What were the navigation and communication devices used in Al Mahatta?
15. What is the Black Box and its role in the plane?
16. What were the devices used to estimate weather conditions?

Weather Conditions

Barometer is a device used to measure pressure. Meteorological Stations use the barometer to see the changes in air pressure which means that the weather will change. The barometer can be used to measure the different elevations when the air pressure becomes less, the elevation rises.

Resources:

- Plastic water bottle
- Clay
- White tape
- straw
- A4 paper

Method:

- 1) Cut the top part of the water bottle.
- 2) Use the white tape to cover the top of the bottle and cover the straw as well.
- 3) Use the A4 paper to design the cloud and stick it on the straw.
- 4) Use a pen to draw lines for measurement on the straw.
- 5) Use clay to fix the model to stay stable.
- 6) Now use this rain collector to collect the rain in winter.



My Safety in the Plane

Black Box is an important device used to facilitate the investigation of aviation accidents and incidents and that's why it's called the Black Box. There are two boxes in each plane and each one used in different intent. One is responsible to save the data such as time, speed and directions. The other one is used to record voices.

Resources:

- Orange A4 paper
- White tape



Method:

- 1) Fold the paper from the centre horizontally then open it.
- 2) Fold the paper from the centre vertically then open it.
- 3) Fold the paper horizontally from the right side before the center point.
- 4) Fold the paper horizontally from the left side before the center point.
- 5) Fold the paper vertically from both side left and right before the center point.
- 6) Keep the paper folded, you should see 3 lines on each side.
- 7) Fold the corners of the paper from the top and bottom to make it look like a triangle.
- 8) Fold the extra middle part of the paper.
- 9) Open the paper and create your box.
- 10) Use the tape to create the line.
- 11) For the cover follow the same method.

Al Mahatta before the Discovery of Oil

The station was built in 1932 by British Imperialism Company and was very important for the British to use the area as a refueling stop. His highness Sheikh Sultan bin Saqr Al Qasimi approved their request to lease the land but they should pay monthly 800 Rubbia with 5 Rubbias as an extra fees for each landing and taking off aircraft. Moreover, Sheikh Sultan bin Saqr Al Qasimi was only accepting coins instead of paper currencies in the payment to avoid fraud.

1) Draw the landing area:

Landing area nowadays



Landing area in the past



2) Imagine yourself standing in the landing area in the past. Describe what would you hear, feel and see.
