

Year 3 General Studies

Black Box Flight Recorder

In 1954 Dr David Warren first came up with the idea of a device that would record not only flight data but also voices and other sounds in aircraft cockpits immediately prior to a crash.

The prototype Dr David Warren designed in the late 1950s met with indifference in Australia but was greeted with enthusiasm elsewhere in the world.



The Aeronautical Research Laboratories (ARL) did not apply for patents until many of the design elements were already in the public domain. This allowed firms elsewhere in the world, particularly in the United States, to develop the idea, thereby capturing a growing market as the installation of flight recorders became mandatory around the world.

Today flight recorders are mandatory on all major aircraft throughout the world and have made a huge contribution to air safety.

Did You Know?

'Black boxes' are actually orange, to assist in their recovery after an accident.



Modern cockpit voice recorder



Modern flight data recorder

Black Box Flight Recorder

Questions

1. What colour are black boxes flight recorders?

2. When was the first black box flight recorder created? (Circle the answer)

1954 / 1984 / 1994

3. Who created the prototype for the first flight data, voices and other sounds in aircraft cockpits immediately prior to a crash?

4. The prototype was met with enthusiasm in Australia.

True / False

5. Why were black box flight recorders given their distinct colour?

6. Flight recorders are mandatory on all major aircraft throughout the world.

True / False