



Daily Article (Bharath's Reading list) - Answers and Explanations 01.09.2023

Article link : <https://bit.ly/3L4MRml> (The Brief But Spectacular Era of Balloon Mania)

1. Based on the article, which of the following is incorrect?

- A. During the Middle Ages, sky lanterns were used by the Chinese for military communication over long distances
- B. In 1600s, with Galileo's finding that air had weight, people started thinking whether it might be possible to float up to the sky
- C. Ballooning was a popular obsession not only in France, but even as far as Japan which had its first own manned balloon launch in 1797
- D. The first manned flight on a hydrogen balloon took both Jacques Charles and one of his co-designers up

Explanation : C

According to the article Japan had its own manned balloon launch several decades after France: 'In Japan, a country that wouldn't have its own manned balloon launch for almost a century, you could buy a hot-air balloon plate, manufactured in 1797'

2. All the following statements about the Montgolfier brothers are true except:

- A. The first unmanned hot-air balloon was launched in France by these brothers
- B. The Montgolfier brothers thought that smoke was a lighter-than-air product of the fires that could help lift people
- C. The brothers were the first to launch a hot-air balloon with animals in the sky
- D. Their first untethered manned balloon flight in France lasted only for about 10 minutes

Explanation: D

Note the line, 'On November 21, 1783, two aeronauts, a physicist and a nobleman, traveled five miles in about half an hour...'

3. Which of the following was not a problem faced by hydrogen balloonists?

- A. Hydrogen was inflammable
- B. Hydrogen gas was difficult to obtain
- C. Hydrogen needed to be constantly heated
- D. All the above problems were faced by them

Explanation: C

Refer to the lines, 'There were two problems with hydrogen. First, it was difficult to obtain (early hydrogen balloonists got their hydrogen by pouring acid on metal and collecting the gases that were given off). Second, it was flammable. But it did have a significant advantage in that it didn't need to be constantly heated.'