The history of aviation dates back to the 5th century with the invention of kites in China. Also, the introduction of composite materials like the one used for the 1981 building of the Boeing 787 Dreamliner has significantly cut down the weight of the aircraft, leading to improved fuel efficiency Advanced composite has also led to the development of sweeping wing tips that reduce component weight and improve the aerodynamics of an aircraft. Revolutionary aircraft designs, for instance, the Douglas DC–3, a reliable all–metal passenger airplane with rubberized seats to reduce vibrations and noise–deadening plastic insulation, helped make flying more comfortable and accessible for new travelers. Between 1900 and 1902, the Wright Brothers, Wilbur and Orville Wright from Dayton, Ohio, designed and tested numerous glider and kite models. A notable example was the Boeing 767's glass cockpit.

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