

## WORDS

- **airlines** = a company that takes passengers to different places
- **baggage** = the bags and suitcases a person takes with him on a trip
- **cargo** = the goods that are transported on a plane or ship
- **carry** = to take with you
- **cause** = lead to
- **commercial** = flight that carries real passengers who have to pay
- **compete** = to be as good as or better than
- **designer** = someone who plans an object
- **destination** = a place that someone or something is going to
- **engine** = the part of a plane that produces power and energy to make it move
- **fuel** = the liquid that is needed to power a car, train or plane
- **focus** = concentrate on
- **headquarters** = the home town of a company. Most of its workers are here
- **however** = but
- **huge** = very big
- **length** = how long something is
- **passenger** = a person who is travelling on a plane, boat, car etc..
- **reach** = get to
- **refuel** = to fill up a plane and continue with a journey
- **runway** = the place where a plane lands and takes off
- **span** = to go from one place to another
- **weigh** = how heavy something is

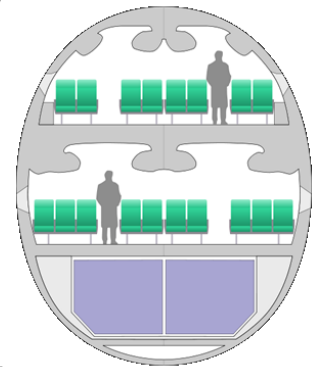
The Airbus A380 is the largest passenger plane that has ever been built. It can carry more **passengers** and **cargo** than any other airplane and its **designers** say that it uses less **fuel** and make less noise.

The A 380 is a giant in the skies. Its wings **span** about 80 meters and it has a **length** of 73 meters. When filled with passengers the A 380 **weighs** over 500 000 kg. It has three decks - two passenger decks and one for **cargo**. Up to 840 passengers can fly on the plane if all the seats are built in it.

Up to now, the biggest plane was the Boeing 747 which could **carry** 416 passengers. **Designers** have used special materials to keep the plane light. Plane makers say that the **engines** are very low in noise - they produce about half the sound of other **engines**.

The A 380 can fly about 13,000 km non-stop. The plane can **reach destinations** on other continents without **refueling**.

The A 380 is so big that putting it together **causes** some problems. It is not built in one place. The parts of the plane come from all over Europe and are put together at the Airbus **headquarters** in southern France.



Cross-profile of the A-380

In the early 1990s Airbus started to **design** a plane that could **compete** with Boeing's 747. In 2000 the first **airlines** ordered the new plane and in January 2005 the first Airbus A 380 was finished. The new Airbus made its first **commercial** flight with Singapore Airlines. It flew from Singapore to Sydney on 25 October 2007. Over 6000 people worked on the project and up to now 14 airlines have already ordered the A 380.

There are, **however**, problems such a big plane may **cause**. Are airports big enough for the plane to take off and land or can airlines sell enough tickets to fill the plane?

Testing has shown that the A 380 does not need longer **runways**. But airports may have problems getting people on and off the **huge** planes. Waiting lines may be very long and **passengers** could wait for their **baggage** for some time.

Airbus Industries says the A 380 will **focus** on big airports like London, New York or Hong Kong where many people travel to the same city.



**1. Answer the questions**

How many passengers can the A-380 carry ? \_\_\_\_\_

How many decks does it have? What are they for? \_\_\_\_\_

Which plane was the largest up to the arrival of the A-380? \_\_\_\_\_

What makes the plane so special? \_\_\_\_\_

For how long can the A-380 stay in the air? \_\_\_\_\_

When and between which cities did the A-380 make its first commercial flight? \_\_\_\_\_

What problems may such a big plane lead to? \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Explain in English**

baggage \_\_\_\_\_

commercial \_\_\_\_\_

destination \_\_\_\_\_

headquarters \_\_\_\_\_

refuel \_\_\_\_\_

span \_\_\_\_\_



**Key****5. True or False**

	T	F
The A-380 can carry more passengers than any other plane before it but also needs more fuel for long distance trips.		✓
The A-380 has a wingspan of about 80 metres.	✓	
When it is full it weighs over 500 tons.	✓	
Special materials were used to keep the plane as light as possible.	✓	
The A-380 cannot get to destinations overseas without refuelling.		✓
All of the A-380's parts were built in southern France.		✓
Over 6000 people worked on the A-380 project.	✓	
The A-380 needs longer runways because it is so heavy.		✓
The A 380 will probably fly between large cities where there are many travellers.	✓	