`gabriel harcourt

4/27/22

AOPA 9th

Frank Whittle was 7 years old when he found his love for planes and engines. The son of a mechanic, Whittle entered the Royal Air Force as a boy apprentice and soon qualified as a pilot at the [RAF](https://www.britannica.com/topic/The-Royal-Air-Force) College in Cranwell. He was posted to a fighter squadron in 1928 and served as a test pilot in 1931–32. He then pursued further studies at the RAF [engineering](https://www.britannica.com/technology/engineering) school and at the [University of Cambridge](https://www.britannica.com/topic/University-of-Cambridge) . Early in his career Whittle recognized the potential demand for an aircraft that would be able to fly at great speed and height, and he first put forth his vision of jet propulsion in 1928