

For Release
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Balloons! These have been found extremely useful in meteorology. Small rubber free balloons are sent aloft and observed, thus determining wind speed and direction at various altitudes. Larger ones carrying instruments, some of which are equipped with radio, are used daily. They transmit pressure, temperature, and humidity on their way to the stratosphere. Balloons were not invented until 1782, when the Montgolfier brothers conceived the idea of filling a linen bag with smoke from burning straw. It rose to a great height but as soon as it cooled settled to the ground. Later, Charles, the physicist, used hydrogen very successfully, and even ascended himself. -----