

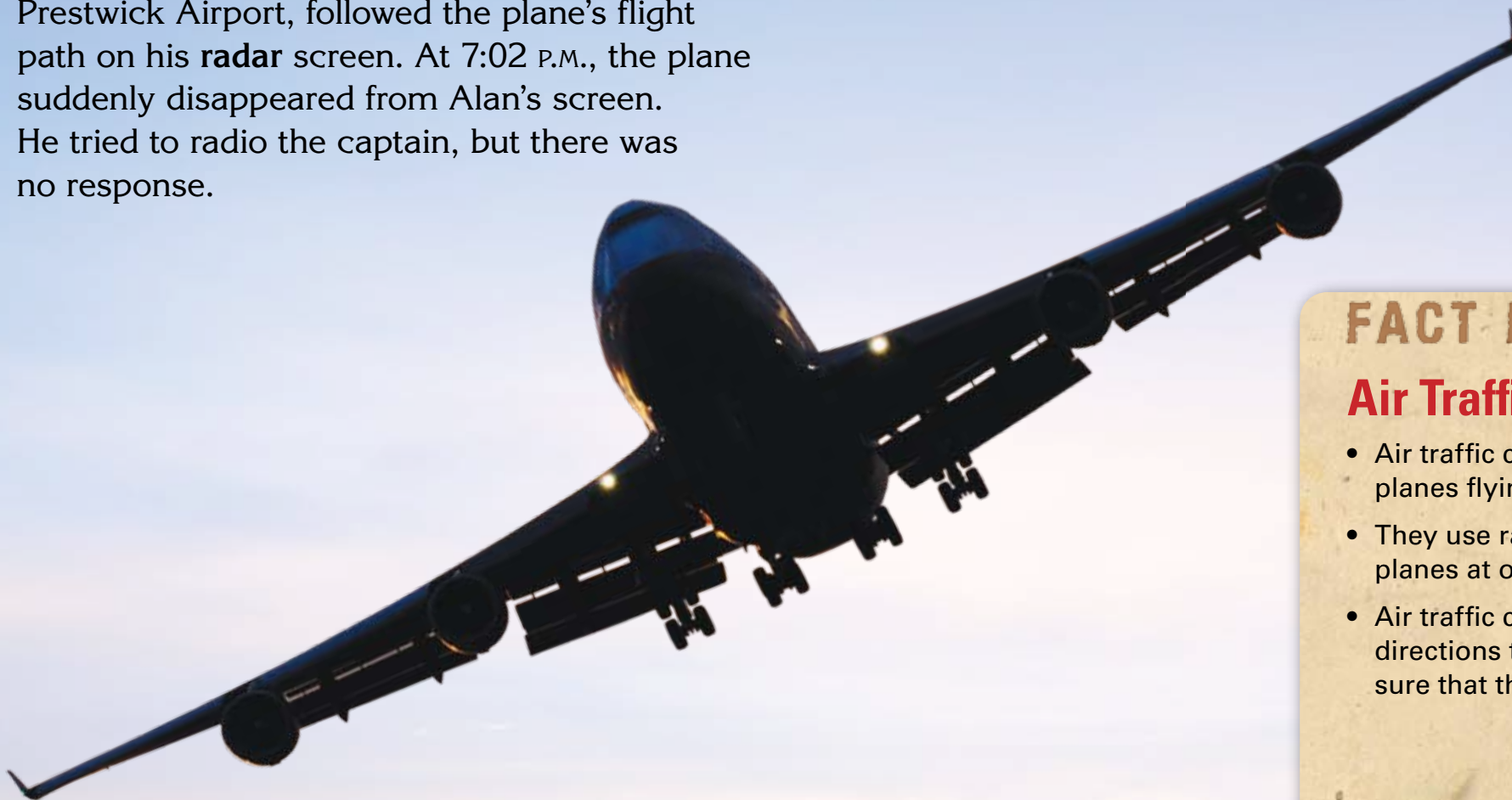
Flight 103's Last Moments



Pan Am Flight 103 took off at 6:25 P.M. from London's Heathrow Airport on December 21, 1988. It was an ordinary flight on a cloudless day.

The 747 flew over Scotland on its way to New York. No one on board had any idea the plane would never reach its destination.

Alan Topp, an **air traffic controller** at Scotland's Prestwick Airport, followed the plane's flight path on his **radar** screen. At 7:02 P.M., the plane suddenly disappeared from Alan's screen. He tried to radio the captain, but there was no response.



Alan looked back at his radar screen. Something was wrong. Where the plane had been, there were now several objects moving quickly apart. Pan Am Flight 103 had exploded!



An air traffic controller watches the movements of planes on his computer.

FACT FILE

Air Traffic Controller

- Air traffic controllers keep track of planes flying across land and sea.
- They use radar to monitor many planes at one time.
- Air traffic controllers give directions to planes to make sure that they don't crash.



Radar screens display the positions of planes in flight.