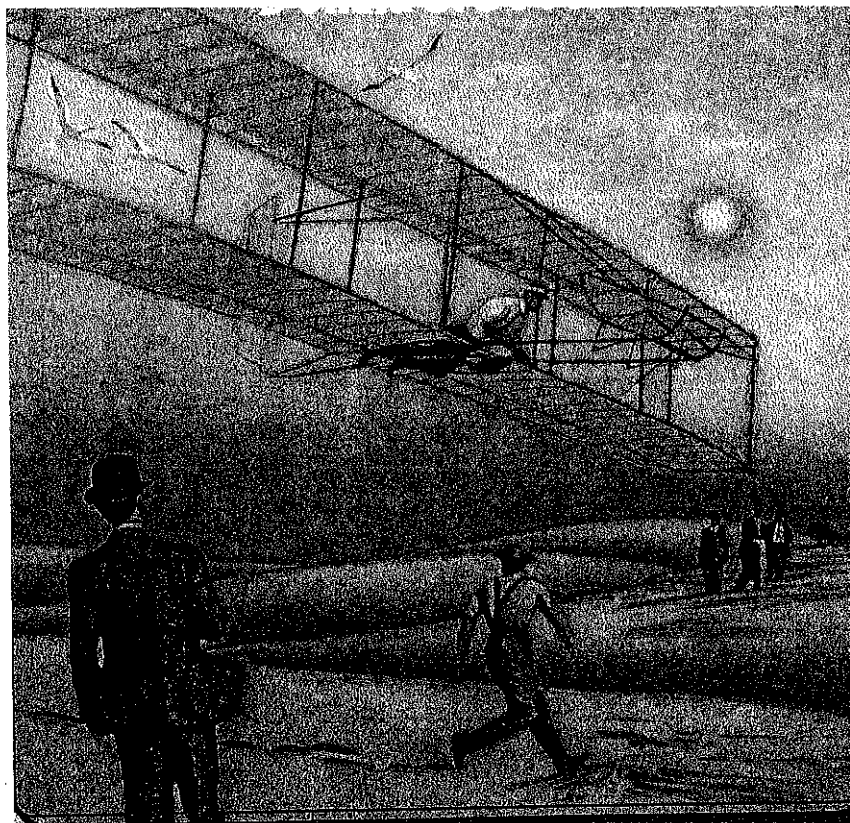


LifeHouse Productions' LifeTales Series Presents

The Wright Brothers at Kitty Hawk



Curriculum Content Guide

Review questions and answers based on the production.
Timeline of highlights from the life of the Wright brothers.
More questions to think about

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Life Highlights of the Wright Brothers

- 1867** Wilbur Wright is born near Millville, Indiana.
- 1871** Orville Wright is born in Dayton, Ohio.
- 1878** The Wright brothers build their first aircraft, a rubber-band powered helicopter.
- 1885** Wilbur receives an injury during a hockey game, preventing him from attending college.
- 1886** Orville starts a printing business while he is still in high school.
- 1889** Orville publishes a newspaper, the *West Side News*, with Wilbur joining him as editor. The business fails, and they return to printing.
- 1893** The Wright brothers begin to sell and repair bicycles.
- 1895** Wilbur and Orville manufacture their own bicycles, the *St. Clair* and the *Van Cleve*. Their bike business is a success.
- 1896** After hearing of Samuel Langley's *Aerodrome* and the death of glider pilot Otto Lillenthal, the Wright brothers take an interest in solving the "flying problem."
- 1899** Wilbur devises a revolutionary aircraft control system and builds a kite to test it.
- 1900-02** The Wright brothers fly gliders at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, realizing the key to flying has much to do with air currents. They refine their control system as they study how birds utilize air currents and manipulate their wings.
- 1902** At home in Dayton, Ohio, Orville and Wilber build a wind tunnel and conduct research on wing shapes.
- 1903** The Wright brothers make the first controlled, sustained powered flight at Kitty Hawk in what they called *The Wright Flyer*.
- 1904** The Wright brothers develop a practical airplane near Dayton, Ohio.
- 1908** The Wright brothers receive a patent for their airplane control system from the U.S. Patent Office.
- 1909** The Wright brothers begin to manufacture and sell airplanes.
- 1912** Wilbur Wright dies of typhoid in Dayton, Ohio.
- 1948** Orville Wright dies of a heart attack in Dayton, Ohio.

Review Questions on the Wright Brothers

1. What was the *Wright Flyer*? In what year was it successfully tested?
2. In what city and state did the Wright brothers grow up?
3. What air-related toy did the Wright brothers improve upon and try to sell when they were kids?
4. What kind of shop did the Wright brothers open in 1893?
5. What important event happened in Chicago in 1893?
6. Did the town support the Wright brothers as they tried to develop the airplane?
7. Where did the Wright brothers go to attempt their first flight?
8. Why did the Wright brothers choose this location?
9. Was the Wright brother's first attempt at flying successful?
10. When were their attempts at flight finally successful?

Review Questions on the Wright Brothers

1. What was the *Wright Flyer*? In what year was it successfully tested?
A: The first airplane built by the Wright brothers. It was successfully flown in 1903.
2. In what city and state did the Wright brothers grow up?
A: Dayton, Ohio
3. What air-related toy did the Wright brothers improve upon and try to sell when they were kids?
A: Kites
4. What kind of shop did the Wright brothers open in 1893?
A: A bicycle sales and repair shop.
5. What important event happened in Chicago in 1893?
A: The World's Fair.
6. Did the town support the Wright brothers as they tried to develop the airplane?
A: No. The town people ridiculed them and told them they were crazy.
7. Where did the Wright brothers go to attempt their first flight?
A: Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.
8. Why did the Wright brothers choose this location?
A: Because of its large open space of sand dunes and the high winds present.
9. Was the Wright brother's first attempt at flying successful?
A: No. They ended up crashing and destroying parts of their aircraft.
10. When were their attempts at flight finally successful?
A: On 17 December 1903. Their "Wright Flyer" stayed in the air for 12 seconds and traveled 120 feet at seven miles per hour.

More To Think About

Another important person in the development of flight:

The Wright brothers also had a sister named Katherine. After their mother died, Katherine took over all the household duties and helped take care of her brothers. As Wilbur and Orville became more involved in their experiments and studies, they relied heavily on Katherine to take care of them and provide for them financially. However, the Wright brothers rarely acknowledged the great sacrifices Katherine made in her own personal life in order to support her brothers. How does Katherine's role fit into the development of flight? How do you think she felt throughout the years leading up to the first successful flight? What kinds of sacrifices did she have to make in order to help her family?

Failure before Flight

Before the Wright brothers developed their aircraft design, many people had also attempted to solve the "problem of flight." Individuals such as Samuel Langley and Otto Lillenthal made remarkable progress. However, their designs were still unsuccessful; often with fatal results, as in the case of Lillenthal. The Wright brothers were also unsuccessful when they made their first attempt. But instead of giving up, they redesigned their plane and tried again; this time resulting in the first flight at Kitty Hawk. Their years of research and experiments were often very difficult. The entire town thought they were crazy, and constantly taunted the Wright brothers as they continued their research. But the Wright brothers believed in what they were doing and they had the support of their family. Have you ever tried to do what you knew was right, but those around you made fun of you? How different would our world be today if the Wright brothers listened to those criticizing them and just gave up?