



Dear Educator,

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Wright Brothers



Wright Brothers



In the years following the American Civil War, Bishop Milton Wright and his wife Susan had five children. Two of these children would change the world just after the dawn of the 20th century. These sons, Wilbur and Orville, would invent, build, and fly the first powered flying machine in the world.

Wilbur, Orville and their two brothers and sister led fairly normal lives for their time period. The family settled in a large house in Dayton, Ohio. Their father provided them with a large library in their home.

The father's many travels brought new ideas home to be talked about and explored. One day, he brought home a new toy for the boys. It was a model flying machine powered by a rubber band. It looked sort of like a toy helicopter. Legend has it that this toy started Wilbur and Orville on their obsession with flight.



Read each sentence. Fill in the missing words below.

1. Bishop Milton Wright and his wife Susan had _____ children.
2. The family settled in a large house in _____, Ohio.
3. Wilbur and Orville, would invent, and fly the first powered _____ machine.
4. Their father provided them with a large _____ in their home.

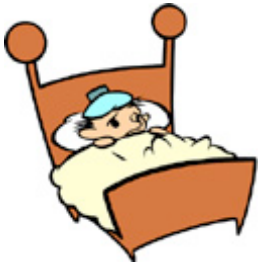
Wright Brothers

Neither boy finished high school. Wilbur had finished classes but did not get a diploma because the family had moved before the ceremony. Orville was not a very good student and was spending a lot of time in the headmaster's office because of his pranks. Orville quit school at the beginning of his last year.



Both boys continued to study at home. They were fascinated with all things mechanical. A favorite pastime was taking machines apart and putting them back together again. Many times, they made improvements to the machines. Sometimes, the machine never worked right after the boy's tinkering. Does that sound familiar?

The brothers earned pocket money by building and selling mechanical toys. They also built a printing press from items they found in junkyards. They printed and sold a newspaper for about a year.



Wilbur had a head injury from playing ice hockey when he was about 19. Somehow, the injury seemed to affect his heart and he became weak and depressed. The effects of the injury kept him home for about 4 years. During this time he read a lot about engineering. He also helped take care of his mother who was dying from tuberculosis.



Answer the question below. Write in complete sentences on the lines.

What does engineering mean? _____

Wright Brothers

In the winter of 1902, their trip to Kill Devil Hills was brimming with success. They brought a glider with their new model wing design. They had tested over 200 designs and were sure they had found their answer. The brothers made over 1,000 liftoffs with the new glider. Sometimes they stayed aloft for over 600 feet. They returned to Dayton ready for the next step into history.



Orville

Now it was Orville's turn to get to work. Orville was a genius with machines and motors. As Wilbur built the planes, Orville made and adjusted the motor they hoped would provide the power for sustained flight.

The final plane that went to Kitty Hawk in 1903 measured forty and a half feet from wing tip to wing tip. They were so sure that it would fly that they had applied for a patent on the design in March. Counting the weight of a pilot, it averaged 750 pounds. About 200 pounds of that was the small gasoline engine designed by Wilbur and built by Orville.

Read each word below. Write a definition for each word on the lines.



1. engine _____

2. patent _____

3. aloft _____

Wright Brothers



CRISS CROSS

Can you fit these words into the criss cross?
Use a pencil so you can erase if you need to.

airplane
flight

glider
hangar

wings
design

fly
track

