

Meet the Wright Brothers

You've probably learned about the Wright brothers, Orville and Wilbur, who were the first to create and fly a powered heavier-than-air plane.

That first flight, on Dec. 17, 1903, set in motion humans' exploration of the skies. In 1908, Orville won a \$25,000 contract with the U.S. Army to build airplanes.

This week, The Mini Page is learning more about the two brothers who made it possible for us to travel across the country in just a matter of hours.

Wilbur Wright

Wilbur was the older brother, born in 1867. He:

- was his father's favorite child. His father expected more of him than he did the other children.
- was a wonderful writer and speaker.
- was the visionary of the two brothers.
- had a sharp, pointed nose and long neck.
- died of typhoid fever in 1912, 36 years before his younger brother.

Orville Wright

Orville, born in 1871, was a good writer. He:

- was very shy. He never made a speech in public. He would attend events but never say a word.



photo courtesy National Air and Space Museum

Mini Fact:

Orville, right, works in the brothers' bicycle shop in Dayton, Ohio.

- was talkative at home and liked to play practical jokes.
- was always tinkering with machines.

Family life

The Wright brothers gave their parents credit for their success. Their father, Milton, was a well-educated bishop in the Church of the United Brethren in Christ. He had strong opinions of what was right or wrong.

Susan, their mother, was raised around tools because her father was a carriage maker. She knew how to make things and made small appliances and even toys.

The family included two older brothers and a younger sister, Katharine, whom Orville and Wilbur were very close to. The famous brothers lived at home and never married.

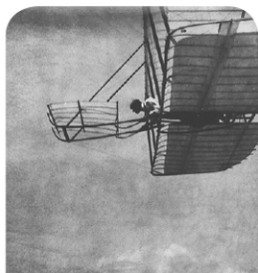
Work life

Orville started a printing business in Dayton, Ohio, and Wilbur joined him. They later opened a successful bicycle shop.

Knowing how bikes worked, having useful tools around and having a great deal of curiosity and drive enabled the brothers to believe they might invent a way to fly.



Orville, Katharine and Wilbur in Europe in 1909.



Wilbur soars in one of the gliders.

Interest in flying

The boys first became interested in flight when their father brought home a helicopter-like toy for the children in 1878. Later, when many people were working on how to build a flying plane, Wilbur and Orville did a lot of research.

Wilbur noticed that **warping**, or twisting, the wings of a biplane would allow him to control the airplane in a turn.

Kitty Hawk

The Wrights decided to build a kite to see if this would work. They wanted to test it in a place with strong winds. After contacting the U.S. weather department, they settled on Kitty Hawk, a tiny fishing town on an island off the coast of North Carolina.

For four years, from 1900 to 1903, they traveled to Kitty Hawk. They took more than 300 photos, to keep records of their work.

The Wrights took careful steps along the way. They tested a kite first, then gliders with and without a pilot. Finally, they were ready to add propellers and an engine.

On Dec. 17, 1903, Orville flew 120 feet in 12 seconds. Later that day, Wilbur flew for 59 seconds for a distance of 852 feet.

Resources

On the Web:

- bit.ly/MPWright

At the library:

- "The Wright Brothers' First Flight" by Thomas Kingsley Troupe

Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of the Wright Brothers are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:

AIRPLANE, BICYCLE, BROTHERS, DAYTON, ENGINE, FLIGHT, GLIDER, KATHARINE, KITE, KITTY HAWK, OHIO, ORVILLE, PILOT, PROPELLER, WARPING, WILBUR, WINGS, WRIGHT.

P R U C K A I R P L A N E S C
A P E G S N E L C Y C I B R L
I R Y D K W R I G H T I W E S
S O R I I D R R U B L I W H K
G P T E L L I V R O J X W T S
N E B T E N G I N E O S W O P
I L K W A H Y T T I K I A R I
W L N K A T H A R I N E H B L
X E F A Y G N I P R A W D O O
P R D A Y T O N D F L I G H T



Cook's Corner

Almonds, Brie and Green Apple Flatbread

You'll need:

- 1/4 cup slivered blanched almonds
- 4 ounces brie cheese, room temperature
- 1 flatbread (regular, whole-wheat or seasoned)

What to do:

1. Place almonds in a small dry skillet and set pan over medium heat. Cook for 3 to 5 minutes, shaking pan frequently, until almonds are toasted. Remove from heat.
2. Spread brie all over flatbread, to within 1/4 inch of edges. Top brie with apple slices and toasted almonds.
3. Cut flatbread into squares and serve. Serves 4.

Adapted from "The Robin Takes 5 Cookbook for Busy Families" with permission from Andrews McMeel Publishing (andrewsmcmeel.com).



* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

7 Little Words for Kids

Use the letters in the boxes to make a word with the same meaning as the clue. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in the solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

1. not one or the other (7) _____
2. where you catch a train (7) _____
3. look for (6) _____
4. place to hike (4) _____
5. Mickey Mouse's company (6) _____
6. part of a bird's wing (7) _____
7. bother (5) _____

RCH	ER	NEY	ITH
ER	DIS	SEA	ATH
FE	STA	ANN	TION
OY	TH	NE	PA

Answers: neither, station, search, path, Disney, feather, annoy.



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Mini Jokes

Warren: Why don't ducks tell jokes while they fly?

Winnie: Because they would quack up!

Eco Note

British researchers say humpback whales have distinctive songs that are unique to where they originally came from, but the tunes can change over time. Ellen Garland of the University of St. Andrews says those songs evolve as the marine mammals encounter others of their species while traveling through the oceans. "We can pinpoint a population a whale has likely come from by what they are singing," Garland says.

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For later:

Look in your newspaper for items related to air travel or technology used by airlines.

Teachers: For standards-based activities to accompany this feature, visit: bit.ly/MPstandards. And follow The Mini Page on Facebook!



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