

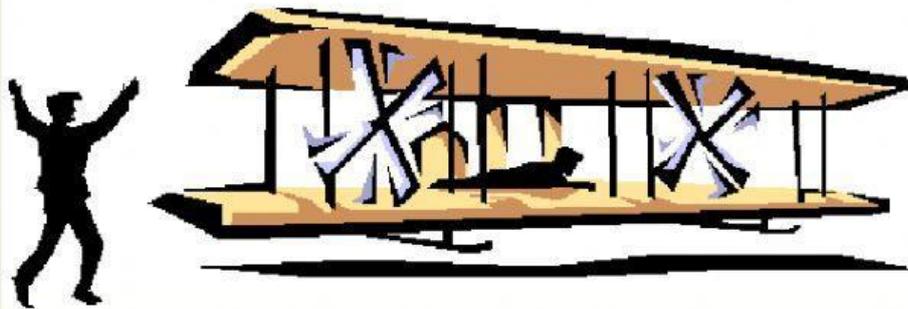
## The Wright Brothers

Wilbur and Orville Wright were from America. They lived in a small town called Dayton. They loved machines such as the Penny Farthing bicycle. As young boys, Orville liked making things and Wilbur loved reading books about flying. In 1889 they bought two “safety bicycles”; they loved these bicycles. They opened a shop in Dayton, the “Wright Bicycle Company”.

One day, Wilbur showed his brother a magazine about flying machines. There was a story about a man named Otto Lilienthal. This man was working on trying to find a way for human beings to fly.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

Wilbur and Orville built their first glider in 1889. On American government advice, they took their first glider to Kill Devil Hill, a hill in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.



2. \_\_\_\_\_

In September 1900, they built a bigger glider. In 1901, they took this second glider to Kitty Hawk. However, there were problems with the wind and with the wings. The brothers decided to build a third glider.

At the same time, Wilbur built a “wind tunnel” to test the wings of a glider in the wind. It was a very important invention. In 1902, the brothers took the third glider to Kitty Hawk. Unfortunately, it crashed to the ground because the tail was wrong.

3. \_\_\_\_\_

The Wright brothers built an engine and propellers for the first aeroplane. They called it a “Flyer”. At first it did not fly due to engine problems and weather conditions.

On 14 December, the Flyer was ready. The small crowd that went to Kill Devil Hill, cheered as the Flyer took off. The aeroplane was in the air for three seconds until it crashed to the ground. The crowd laughed.

Three days later, the Flyer was repaired and ready to fly. This time the aeroplane took off safely. It went 259 meters and stayed in the air for 57 seconds.

4. \_\_\_\_\_

The Wright brothers were sad and angry. So, they didn't fly for more than two years. Then, in 1907, Wilbur got a letter from France. French people wanted to see them fly.

In March 1908, Wilbur went to France by boat. He took flyer 2 in big boxes. Newspaper reporters were waiting for him but, when he opened the boxes, Flyer 2 was damaged.

5. \_\_\_\_\_

Orville and Wilbur Wright are remembered as the "fathers of flight." The beach at Kitty Hawk is a national historical monument.



Complete the text with the missing paragraphs:

- A. The Wright brothers continued their work and built a second aeroplane. They tested it at Kill Devil Hill. There were reporters from newspapers but the weather was bad and it did not take off due to engine problems.
- B. Wilbur repaired Flyer 2 and, on 8 August 1908, he went to a field near the town of Le Mans. There was a big crowd and Wilbur got onto Flyer 2. It took off and stayed in the air for more than a minute. Wilbur landed the aeroplane safely. Around the world people said: "It's true! The Wright brothers can fly".
- C. After changing the tail, the glider flew high into the sky. It stayed in the air for 26 seconds and went nearly 200 meters. Wilbur suggested building an engine to fly further. They called it an "aeroplane".
- D. They first flew the glider like a kite and then, Orville lay down on the glider to fly on it. Slowly it took off. It flew three meters above the ground.
- E. In 1896, Lilienthal was killed in a glider accident. The Wright brothers decided to continue with his experiments on trying to find a way to fly.