



Airplanes have changed the world in the last hundred years. But this great change began with two ordinary people.



Orville and Wilbur Wright were two brothers who had a bicycle shop in Ohio, USA. They were good at making bicycles, but planes were their real interest.

At that time, people knew how to build and fly gliders (planes with no engine), but nobody could build a plane with an engine and fly it. The plane builders had two main problems: they could not make the wings strong enough, and the planes always crashed when they tried to take off.

The Wright brothers read about these problems in a newspaper, and they decided to look for answers. They made small model planes in the bicycle shop, and they built a wind tunnel to test the models. They also built real gliders. Finally, they built a plane with an engine, which they called The Flyer.



On December 17th 1903, Orville and Wilbur pulled The Flyer onto a flat sandy beach. The plane weighed 275 kilograms. It had a petrol engine and two wooden propellers. Two bicycle chains connected the propellers to the engine. The day was very cold, and there was a wind of about kilometers per hour. The brothers tossed a coin to see who should fly first. Orville won. He climbed onto the plane and started the engine.

The Flyer began to move into the wind. Wilbur ran along beside the plane. And then the plane took off! It flew for only 12 seconds, but someone took a photograph, and the plane flew into the history books.

I. Arrange the events in the correct order.

- ☒ 1 The Wright brothers had a bicycle shop in Ohio.
- ☐ The plane took off, and someone took a photograph.
- ☐ They built a plane with an engine called the Flyer.
- ☐ Orville flew the Flyer, and Wilbur ran along beside the plane.
- ☐ They read about the problems with planes in a newspaper.

II. Choose the best answer.

1. What is the text about?

It's about.....

2. What was wrong with the plane's wings?

They were not

3. Where did the Wright brothers make small model planes?

In

4. When did the Wright brothers fly their first plane?

On

5. How long did the plane fly?

For.....