The Wright Brothers

1. Listen to the audio an organize the sentences in the correct order.

- However, only four newspapers in the U.S. **reported** this historic moment.
- Finally Wilbur **designed** a small machine with a gasoline engine.
- They **fixed** it and **flew** it for the first time on December 17, 1903, with Orville as the pilot.
- The airplane **remained** in the air for twelve seconds.
- Because of wind, it was difficult to control.
- It **traveled** a distance of 120 feet.
- They **studied** three aspects of flying: lift, control, and power.
- They **continued** to study aerodynamics.
- In 1899, they **constructed** their first flying machine—a kite made of wood, wire, and cloth.
- When they were older, they **started** a bicycle business.
- This historic flight **changed** the world.
- They **used** the bicycle shop to design their airplanes.
- It **had** no pilot.
- Wilbur **tried** to fly the machine, but it **crashed.**

2. Use www.vocaroo.com to record your voice reading the following paragraph. Then, copy and post the link in the box below.

The Wright brothers offered their invention to the U.S. government, but the government rejected their offer at first. The government didn't believe that these men invented a flying machine. Finally, President Theodore Roosevelt investigated their claims and offered the inventors a contract to build airplanes for the U.S. Army.

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3. Complete the paragraph, using the past form of the verbs in paretheses.

December 17, 2003, _____ ***(mark)*** 100 years of flight. _____ ***(There be)*** a six-day celebration at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, the location of the first flight. A crowd of 35,000 people _____ ***(gather)*** to see a replica of the first plane fly. The cost to re-create the plane _____ ***(be)*** $1.2 million. However, it _____ ***(rain)*** hard that day and the plane _____ ***(fail)*** to get off the ground. You can now see the Wright brothers' original airplane in the Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C.

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