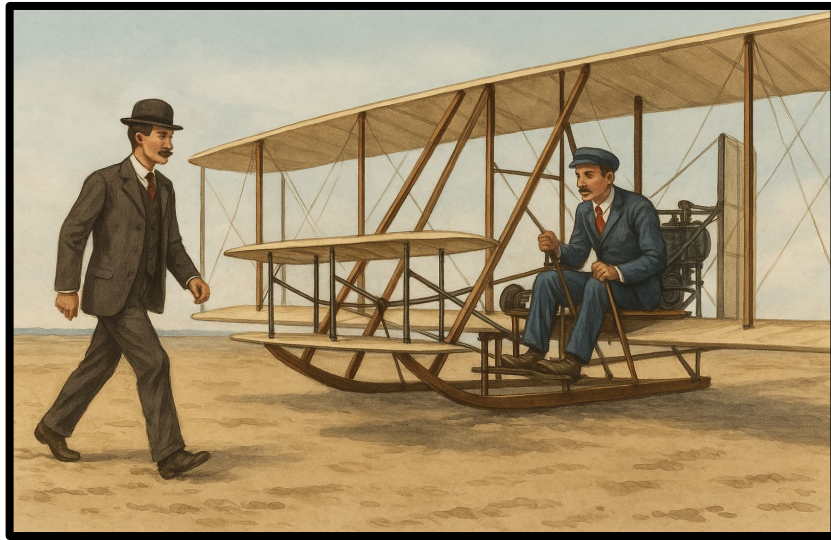


# Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Connecting Ideas

Read the short story and answer each question.



## How Airplanes Were Invented

**Airplanes are a big part of how we travel today.**

But they didn't always exist. They were invented by two brothers who dreamed of flying.

**Wilbur and Orville Wright loved building things.**

As kids, they built kites, toys, and machines. They studied how birds flew and read books about flight. Their early interest in motion and science led them to think they could build a flying machine.

**In 1903, they tested their first plane.**

It was called the Flyer. It was made of wood and cloth, and it had a small engine. On December 17, 1903, the Flyer flew for just 12 seconds—but it worked!

**The brothers kept improving their design.**

Each time they flew, they made notes and fixed problems. They added better wings, stronger engines, and better controls.

**Today's planes are much faster and bigger.**

But all airplanes today came from the Wright brothers' first flight. Their work changed the way people travel around the world.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## How Airplanes Were Invented

1. What is the main idea of the text?

- A. Planes are the fastest way to deliver mail.
- B. The Wright brothers invented airplanes by working step by step.
- C. Kites are better than airplanes.
- D. Flying is easy and doesn't need planning.

2. How did the Wright brothers' ideas lead to better airplanes?

- A. They stopped building after their first flight.
- B. They shared their kites with other people.
- C. They made changes and improvements after each flight.
- D. They built boats and cars instead.

3. Fill in the blank:

The Wright brothers flew the \_\_\_\_\_ for 12 seconds in 1903.

4. How did the Wright brothers' early interests help them invent the airplane?

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5. How are the events in this text connected?

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# Parent and Teacher Guide

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**Guide Reading Level:** M

**Lexile Level:** 425L-575L

**Grade Level:** 2nd Grade, End of the Year

**Genre:** Informational (Invention/History)

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## Introducing the Text

*"Today we're going to read about the Wright brothers and how they invented the airplane. As we read, we'll focus on how the events in the text connect to each other—from their childhood all the way to modern air travel."*

**Vocabulary:** invention, motion, design, engine, improve

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## Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What do you know about airplanes or how they work?
  2. Have you ever heard of the Wright brothers?
  3. Why do you think people wanted to fly in the sky?
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## During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What were the Wright brothers interested in when they were young?
  2. What happened when they flew the Flyer for the first time?
  3. What did they do after that first flight?
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## After Reading Discussion Questions

1. How do the events in this text build on each other?
  2. What connections do you see between their early hobbies and their invention?
  3. Why is it important to improve something over time?
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## Activity Idea

Students create a "Timeline of Flight" with five events from the text. For each event, they draw a picture and write one sentence explaining how it connects to the next. Then, they write a caption at the bottom: "From Kites to Jets!" and share one way planes have changed the world.

