

The Wright Brothers: Readers Theater Script
By Mrs. McGowan's 2nd Grade
H. W. Mountz School Spring Lake, NJ

Our CyberDictionary about the Wright brothers has been adapted to tell their story in sequence. Twenty or less speakers can participate in the reading:

Speaker 1:

On December 17, 2003 we will celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Wright brothers' first powered airplane flight.

Speaker 2:

Wilbur and Orville Wright built the first gasoline engine powered airplane. When they were just little boys, they got a toy helicopter. They liked it so much, they thought they could learn to fly.

Speaker 3:

Wilbur was born April 16, 1867 in Indiana. Orville's birthday was August 19, 1871 in Dayton, Ohio. Orville loved to make and fly kites. He even made kites to sell to his friends.

Speaker 4:

The brothers had a printing shop and a bicycle shop. They were great inventors.

Speaker 5:

The Wright brothers made lots of magnificent things like bikes, kites, and planes.

Speaker 6:

Their sister's name was Katherine. She gave her brothers encouragement and support. She did not get to fly until almost six years after the flight in 1903.

Speaker 7:

Wilbur and Orville had many ideas about kites and gliders that they tested before making their airplane.

Speaker 8:

Wilbur and Orville were very interested in how birds fly. They studied buzzards' wings to make better wings for their planes. In 1899 the Wright brothers built a kite which they controlled by warping or twisting the wings.

Speaker 9:

There were no jets when the Wright brothers made the Flyer. It had two propellers. The air beneath the wings gives an aircraft its lift and gets it off the ground.

Speaker 10:

The Wright brothers added an elevator to their plane. It tilts to make the plane's nose go up and down. The rudder was in the back of the Wright brothers' Flyer and it turned the plane.

Speaker 11:

In 1900 they made tested their ideas at Kitty hawk, NC. They returned home to Dayton, Ohio with new ideas for their plane. They used a wind tunnel to test different wing shapes.

Speaker 12:

The Wright brothers' first flight was at Kill Devil Hills near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. They tested the Flyer there because the sandy beach had perfect winds.

Speaker 13:

The Wright brothers were the first ones to fly the plane. They didn't have pilots back then.

Speaker 14:

The Wright brothers had to flip a coin to see who would go first. Wilbur won. When he made the flight, on December 14, the plane crashed quickly and didn't get off the ground, but Wilbur was OK.

Speaker 15:

After the rudder was fixed, on December 17, 1903 the Wright brothers' Flyer made four flights.

Speaker 16:

The Wright brothers had a track in the sand. They had to run holding the plane. Then they let go at the end of the track as the plane lifted up.

Speaker 17:

Orville flew the Flyer 120 feet the first time. The longest flight zoomed 852 feet in 59 seconds. The Wright brothers' Flyer did not go very high. But at the end of the first flight, the Wright brothers were very happy and yelled, "Hurrah!"

Speaker 18:

Wilbur and Orville did not become famous right away. They wanted to get a patent before showing others their Flyer.

Speaker 19:

In 1909 they finally demonstrated the Flyer to a crowd of people in France.

Speaker 20:

We learned a lot about the Wright brothers. We watched tapes and read books about them. We hope you learn about them too.