4TH GRADE READING · NONFICTION

The Wright Brothers



Name _____ Date _____

Nonfiction | 177 words | Explaining events in order

I read it: ☆ to myself ☆ to a grown-up ☆ to a friend

1 For thousands of years, people dreamed of flying like birds. Two brothers from Dayton, Ohio, finally made it happen. Wilbur and Orville Wright owned a bicycle shop, where they learned how to build machines that were light, strong and **balanced.**

2 The brothers spent hours watching birds. They noticed that birds twist the tips of their wings to turn and stay **balanced.** The Wrights designed wings that could twist the same way. Next, they built their own wind tunnel to test more than 200 wing shapes.

3 They needed a place with strong, steady winds and soft sand for landings, so they traveled to the beaches near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. For three years they practiced with **gliders,** which are aircraft with no engine.

4 On December 17, 1903, they were ready. Orville lay on the lower wing of the Wright Flyer as its engine roared. The plane lifted off the ground and flew for 12 seconds, traveling 120 feet. It was the first controlled flight of a **powered** airplane. Later that day, Wilbur flew 852 feet in 59 seconds.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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The Wright Brothers: questions

Name _____ Date _____

I can find answers in the text. Look back at the text to check.

1 Circle the best answer

1. What did the brothers learn from birds?

a birds twist their wingtips b birds flap very slowly c birds fly only in wind

2. Why did they go to Kitty Hawk?

a to watch sea birds

b to sell bicycles

c steady wind and soft sand

3. How long was the very first flight?

a three years b 59 seconds c 12 seconds

2 True or false? Circle one.

The Wright brothers owned a bicycle shop.	True	False
A glider has a big engine.	True	False
Wilbur flew farther than Orville's first flight.	True	False

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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4TH GRADE READING · NONFICTION

The Wright Brothers: words and writing

Name _____ Date _____

1 Match each word to its meaning. Draw a line.

balanced	moved by an engine
gliders	steady and not tipping over
powered	aircraft that fly with no engine

2 Write your answer in a full sentence.

List three things the Wright brothers did before their first flight.

_____

_____

_____

_____

3 Draw and label something you learned.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Answer key: The Wright Brothers

1 Circle the best answer

1. a) birds twist their wingtips
2. c) steady wind and soft sand
3. c) 12 seconds

2 True or false

True: The Wright brothers owned a bicycle shop.

False: A glider has a big engine.

True: Wilbur flew farther than Orville's first flight.

3 Word meanings

balanced: steady and not tipping over

gliders: aircraft that fly with no engine

powered: moved by an engine

4 Written answer (sample) 💡

They watched birds and designed wings that could twist, tested wing shapes in a wind tunnel, and practiced with gliders at Kitty Hawk.

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