

0. WILBUR AND ORVILLE WRIGHT - Story Preface

1. WILBUR AND ORVILLE WRIGHT

- 2. AIRCRAFT CONTROL
- 3. LIFT AND DRAG
- 4. KITTY HAWK
- 5. THE FIRST FLIGHT
- 6. FLYER 3 and OTHER FAMOUS FLIGHTS
- 7. THE FIRST ROCKETS
- 8. EXPERIMENTAL PLANES
- 9. THE SOUND BARRIER
- 10. THE SPACE RACE
- 11. THE FIRST MAN & WOMAN IN SPACE
- 12. ALAN SHEPARD'S FLIGHT
- 13. JOHN GLENN'S ORBIT
- 14. DEATH IN THE COMMAND MODULE
- 15. TO THE MOON
- 16. APOLLO 11
- 17. APOLLO 13
- 18. THE SHUTTLE'S DESIGN FLAW



WILBUR AND ORVILLE WRIGHT

Ever since 1878, when their <u>father</u> brought home a toy helicopter powered by a rubber band, Will and his brother <u>Orville</u> wanted to fly.

Although <u>flying machines</u> (follow this link to a drawing by Leonardo da Vinci from 1488) had been designed and invented before <u>Will</u> Wright's "affliction," the only humans who had ever flown a controlled flight were characters from Greek mythology. Remember the story?

Daedalus, a famous Greek inventor and craftsman from Athens, was summoned by King Minos (of Crete). At the king's request, the architect created a maze to prevent a monster bull, called the Minotaur, from escaping.

When Minos grew angry with his inventor, he threw both Daedalus and his son, Icarus, into the labyrinth. Since he had created the maze, Daedalus knew how to get out of it. But how would he leave the island? He fashioned wings, made of bees' wax and bird feathers, to help him and Icarus fly away.

Icarus did not heed his father's warning: "Don't fly too close to the sun." When his wing wax melted, <u>Icarus fell</u> to his <u>death</u> while his father flew safely to Sicily.

Before Wilbur and Orville Wright, no one but mythical characters flew. Flying machines which had been invented didn't work properly because they could not be controlled in flight.

Even the Wright brothers had a seven-year <u>struggle</u>. (This link takes you to a crash of their 1900 glider.) Things we take <u>for granted</u> today - how to use lift, thrust, weight and drag <u>to fly</u> - were not common knowledge before the Wright brothers.

After the Wright brothers, the world changed. Darrel Collins, from Kitty Hawk National Historical Park, said it best:

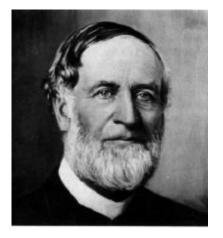
Before the Wright Brothers, no one in aviation did anything fundamentally right. Since the Wright Brothers, no one has done anything fundamentally different.

Wilbur and Orville owned a bike shop in Dayton, Ohio. It was the very things they knew and did as bike shop owners that helped them figure out what no one before them had fully understood.

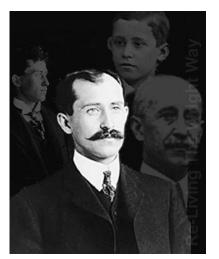
See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/WILBUR-AND-ORVILLE-WRIGHT-History-of-Flight</u>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/WILBUR-AND-ORVILLE-WRIGHT-History-of-Flight

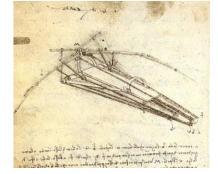
Media Stream



Father of Orville and Wilbur Wright Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Park Service. PD View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Father-of-Orville-and-Wilbur-Wright



<u>Orville Wright - First to Fly</u> Photo online, courtesy U.S. National Archives. View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Orville-Wright-First-to-Fly



Drawing - by Leonardo da Vinci

This image is from the Institut de France, Paris. Online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Wilbur Wright - Photo

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Icarus Falling - Illustration Image online, courtesy the George Washington University website. View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Icarus-Falling-Illustration









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WILBUR AND ORVILLE WRIGHT

Four Forces of Flight Image online, courtesy NASA.

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