

**Lesson 2**

**Directions:** Read the following passage. Then answer questions 1 through 5.

## The Wright Brothers

Wilbur and Orville Wright were brothers, born in Dayton, Ohio. They dreamed of soaring across the open sky in a glider with an engine. They never gave up on their dream. They read every book they could find on gliders. Working in a shed behind their bicycle shop, they began to design and build gliders of their own.

The first glider the Wright brothers built had no engine. Even so, it soared on the wind like a plane. However, they realized the glider needed a powerful engine to help keep it in the air longer. They also realized they had to invent a way to make the glider rise up into the sky. They had to find a way to turn it around while it was in the sky.

The brothers built a new glider. They decided to test it at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, where there were no buildings or trees to get in the glider's way. The glider flew only a short distance, but Wilbur and Orville were happy! They had learned how to control the glider's lift. Now the brothers were ready to add steering. They designed and built another glider with improved controls. They took turns practicing until they could steer it perfectly.

Finally, they were ready to build the engine. It would have to be lightweight but powerful. The brothers worked long and hard on the engine. On December 17, 1903, again at Kitty Hawk, they tested their engine-powered glider for the first time. It moved forward and then up into the sky. Orville traveled 100 feet before he brought the glider down. When Wilbur flew, he went twice as far as Orville. Wilbur then tried a second time. He stayed in the air almost an entire minute, flying nearly 1,000 feet. They had done it!


The Wright brothers turned their dream into a reality with a lot of hard work, practice, and determination. Wilbur and Orville became pioneers of flight. They laid the groundwork for modern air flight and the exploration of space.

*Use with page 23.*

**Lesson 2****Practice: Answering Fill-in-the-Blanks**

**Directions:** Use “The Wright Brothers” to answer the following questions.

- The Wright brothers learned about gliders by \_\_\_\_\_.
  - watching the movements of birds
  - reading books about gliders
  - building several gliders
  - reading books about weather
- The first glider they built \_\_\_\_\_.
  - had no engine
  - had a small engine
  - fell to the ground
  - could not get off the ground
- Orville and Wilbur chose Kitty Hawk as a place to test their gliders because \_\_\_\_\_.
  - it was near their bicycle store
  - they had family and friends who lived there
  - it had no buildings or trees
  - it was close to where they built and stored the gliders
- The brothers needed an engine that would be \_\_\_\_\_.
  - heavy and powerful
  - lightweight but not powerful
  - lightweight but also powerful
  - built of steel
- The trait that best describes the Wright brothers is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - happy
  - calm
  - competitive
  - determined

 **CHECK** Did you substitute each answer choice in the blank before deciding which one was correct?

Use with page 22.