



First Flight

1 Looking at the picture on the contents page, decide whether you think this looks like a safe way to travel, and if not, why not.

Common Core State Standards (Reading: Informational text): RI.4.7

2 Use the dates provided throughout the book to create a timeline of the key events.

Common Core State Standards (Reading: Informational text): RI.4.3

3 Create an “invention line” to chart the order in which the modes of transportation were invented.

Common Core State Standards (Reading: Informational text): RI.4.3

4 Mark the key places of interest on a map of the US.

Common Core State Standards (Reading: Informational text): RI.4.2

5 Write captions for the two pictures on pages 14–15.

Common Core State Standards (Reading: Informational text): RI.4.7

6 Write your own glossary entries for three terms that you didn't know before reading the book, or for three terms that a younger reader might not know.

Common Core State Standards (Reading: Informational text): RI.4.4

7 Using the main text and glossary, write a fact file about the Wright flyer.

Common Core State Standards (Reading: Informational text): RI.3.5, RI.4.2

8 Write your own subheadings for the chapter Flying Far (pages 40–45).

Common Core State Standards (Reading: Informational text): RI.4.2

9 Write an obituary for Lt Thomas Selfridge.

Common Core State Standards (Reading: Informational text): RI.4.3

10 Write a true or false quiz about the Wright brothers.

Common Core State Standards (Reading: Informational text): RI.4.2

3 Hot-air balloon; penny farthing bicycle; safety bicycle;

automobile; Wright biplane kite; Wright glider; Wright Flyer

4 Dayton, Ohio; Kitty Hawk, North Carolina; Washington;

New York

5 Answers will vary. Example answer: A cyclist is helped onto a penny farthing; Cyclists riding safety bicycles in a cycling club.

6 Answers will vary. Example answer:

enthusiast: someone who is really interested in something specific
achievement: successfully achieving something
mechanism: a piece of machinery

7 Answers will vary.

8 Answers will vary. Example answer: French flight, Tragedy strikes, National heroes, New York flight, "Higher Orville!" into the future

9 Answers will vary. Example answer: Lt Thomas Selfridge

tragically died onboard one of Orville Wright's flights after a propeller broke. He is the first person to be killed in an airplane. His death resulted in increased safety measures, as the Wright brothers reinforce all the propeller blades on their Flyer.

10 Answers will vary.

Answers

1 Answers will vary. Example answer: It doesn't look safe because there is no cabin for the pilot; he is flying on his own; he isn't wearing any protective clothing; he is completely exposed to the elements.

2 1783: Hot-air balloon is invented.

1867: Wilbur Wright is born.

1871: Orville Wright is born.

1884: The Wright brothers set up the West Side News.

1892: The Wright brothers get their first safety bikes.

1896: The first automobile is seen in town; Otto Lillenthal

(a German glider pilot) dies.

1899: The Wright brothers make their first biplane kite.

1900: The Wright brothers make their first glider.

1901: The Wright brothers make their second glider.

1902: The Wright brothers make their third glider.

1903: The Wright brothers make the Wright Flyer.

1904: The Wright brothers make the Wright Flyer II.

1905: The Wright Flyer III flies 39 km—the longest flight in history.

1906: The Wright Flyer III receives a patent.

1908: Lt Thomas Selfridge was the first person to be killed in an

airplane.

1909: The Wright brothers get an award from the US President

and meet the British king, Edward VII.

1910: Orville Wright takes his father Milton Wright on his first

flight.

1912: Wilbur Wright dies.

1948: Orville Wright dies.