

Caroline Haslett Primary School – History

Topic: The History of Flight (Wright Brothers)

Year 2

Significant people who have contributed to national and international achievements.

Knowledge

Wilbur and Orville Wright were brothers who grew up in Ohio, USA. They are famous for inventing and testing the first aeroplane. This was an important step for world transport. Wilbur was born in 1867 and his brother was born a few years later in 1871. The brothers loved to think of new ideas and invent things when they were children. Their interest in flight began because their father gave them a toy helicopter that flew with the help of rubber bands. Wilbur and Orville spent time watching how birds fly. This helped them to understand how to make wings for their aircraft. As they grew up, they found out how to make propellers. Propellers use turning blades to help a plane to move forward. The Wright brothers also learnt how to make an engine to power their plane. They made sure that it was light so that their plane could take off. Wilbur tried to fly the aeroplane first in December 1903. It did not work so they spent three days fixing the plane and waiting for good weather. Then, Orville flew the aeroplane. He flew 120 feet through the air. This is as long as four and a half buses. The flight only lasted for 12 seconds but the brothers did not give up. Wilbur tried to fly a new aircraft in November 1904. It was called Flyer II and the flight lasted for over five minutes. Wilbur and Orville's work gave other people new ideas. Aeroplanes started to carry passengers. People used to travel by train and boat but this could take months. Today, people can use planes to quickly travel all over the world in just a few hours.

Vocabulary

- **Aircraft** – an aeroplane, helicopter or other machine capable of flight
- **Engine** – a machine with moving parts that changes power into motion
- **Flyer II** – the first significant flying aircraft invented by The Wright Brothers
- **Invention** – the act of creating something new
- **Myth** – a traditional story, concerning the early history of people that is often untrue
- **Propellers** – a mechanical device that moves a boat or aircraft, consisting of a revolving shaft with two or more blades attached to it
- **Transport** – take or carry (people or goods) from one place to another by means of a vehicle, aircraft, or ship

Useful Images



