The Wright Way: The Process of Invention

Wilbur and Orville Wright

Inventors

Wilbur and Orville Wright placed their names firmly in the hall of great American inventors with the creation of the world's first successful powered, heavier-than-air machine with a pilot aboard. The age of powered flight began with the Wright 1903 Flyer on December 17, 1903, at Kill Devil Hills, NC. The Wright brothers began their aeronautical research in 1899 with a kite/glider. In 1900, they built their first glider designed to carry a pilot. In 1901, they demonstrated their flying craft at Huffman Prairie, near Dayton, Ohio. They established the fundamental principles of aircraft design and engineering in place today. In 1908, they demonstrated their flying craft at an exhibition in the United States and Europe. By 1910, the Wright Company was manufacturing aircraft for sale. Despite the Wrights' dramatic leap ahead of the rest of the world's aeronautical community, others quickly caught up to Wilbur and Orville Wright and surpassed their designs, which is the nature of science. The Wrights did not set out to invent the airplane but to solve their own questions, hypotheses, experiments, research, observations, inferences and conclusions. They wanted and took separation. They achieved disappointment and hardships to realize their dreams of inventing a flying machine. They achieved the first controlled flights but they achieved a new era of air and space exploration.
About The Poster

The Wright brothers changed the course of history with their invention of the airplane. On December 17, 1903, Wilbur and Orville Wright took the first powered, sustained flight in a powered aircraft. The Wright brothers' work revolutionized the way people think about flight and travel. The Wright brothers were the first brothers to design and fly an aircraft that could take off, fly, and land successfully. Their work laid the foundation for modern aviation and paved the way for future developments in aircraft design and technology.

The Wright brothers' work is celebrated each year on December 17 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of their historic flight. The Wright brothers' contributions to the field of aviation are recognized worldwide, and their legacy continues to inspire people around the globe.

The Wright Brothers' Story

The Wright brothers were brothers who revolutionized aviation. They were Orville Wright and Wilbur Wright. Orville Wright was born on August 19, 1871, and Wilbur Wright was born on April 16, 1867. They lived in Dayton, Ohio, and owned a bicycle shop. They were interested in flight from an early age and began experimenting with gliders in the late 1890s.

In the early 1900s, the Wright brothers began designing and building airplanes. They conducted numerous experiments and tests, and by 1903, they had built a successful powered airplane. On December 17, 1903, Orville Wright flew the Wright Flyer at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, which was the first successful powered, sustained flight in human history.

The Wright Flyer was a biplane with a wingspan of 40 feet and a length of 60 feet. It was powered by two 12-hp gasoline engines, and it could fly for 59 seconds. The Wright brothers' work laid the foundation for modern aviation and paved the way for future developments in aircraft design and technology.

The Flying Toy

The Wright brothers turned their dreams into reality and revolutionized the world. In honor of the 100th anniversary of flight, the poster to the right is available for teachers to use in the classroom. The poster can be downloaded in full size from the National Geographic Society Web site. Please visit http://www.nationalgeographic.com/education/centennial for more information.

Activities for Grades K–12

The classroom activities are designed to promote in-depth exploration of the Centennial Web site. The activities will help students see the scientific enterprise as a human endeavor, the nature of science as a human endeavor, the history and nature of science, and fundamental concepts and principles of science as a human endeavor.

For more information on the National Geographic Society's celebration of the U.S. Centennial of Flight, please visit http://www.nationalgeographic.com/education/centennial.

The Process of Invention

Science is often described as a human endeavor. From the development of the first airplane to the present day, scientists have worked tirelessly to push the boundaries of knowledge. The Wright brothers were no exception. They were determined to make flight a reality, and they worked hard to achieve their goal.

The Process of Invention is a valuable lesson for students to learn. It is an important part of the curriculum for grades K–12. The Process of Invention is a lesson that teaches students about the scientific method and how it is used to solve problems.

NASA Resources for Educators

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is an agency of the United States government responsible for the nation's civilian space program and for aeronautics and aerospace research. NASA was founded in 1958, and it is headquartered in Washington, D.C.

NASA Resources for Educators is a Web site designed to provide educators with resources for teaching about NASA and space exploration. The site offers a variety of resources, including lesson plans, activities, and multimedia materials.

Educational Research Sites

The National Science Foundation (NSF) is a federal agency that supports research and education in all fields of science and engineering.

National Science Foundation:
http://www.nsf.gov

National Aeronautics and Space Administration:
http://www.nasa.gov

National Institute of Standards and Technology:
http://www.nist.gov

Center for Education Programs:
http://www.nasa.gov/education

National Geographic Society:
http://www.nationalgeographic.com

National Coalition for Aviation Education:
http://www.aviationeducation.org

National Science Teachers Association:
http://www.nsta.org

American Association for the Advancement of Science:
http://www.aaas.org

Science News:
http://www.sciencenews.org

ScienceDaily:
http://www.sciencedaily.com

Science World:
http://www.science-world.org

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