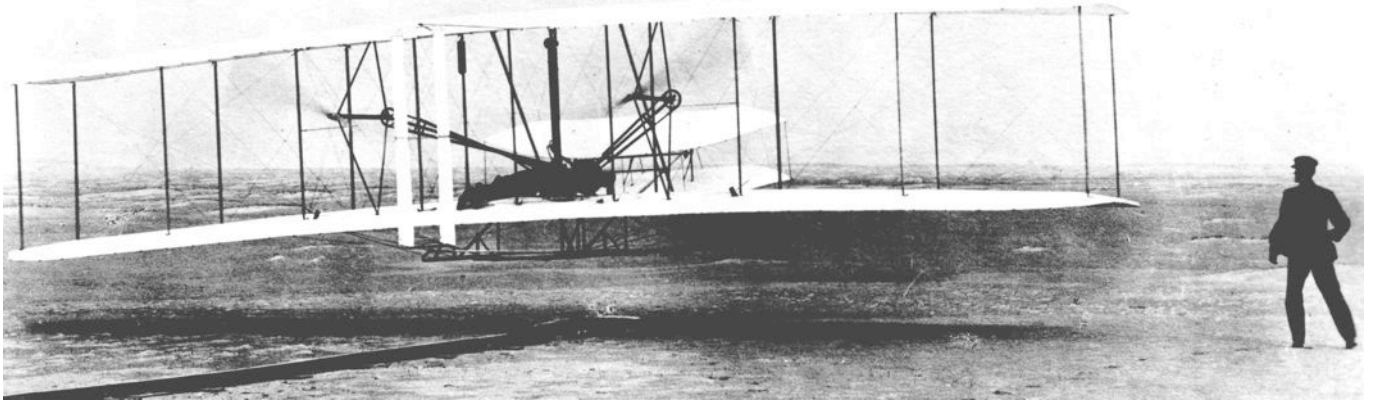


Wilbur and Orville Wright were American flying pioneers who built and flew the first airplane in 1903.

Orville Wright was a champion cyclist. He and his brother Wilbur set up a shop where they made and sold bicycles. They didn't have a proper education, but they had great mechanical skills. They both enjoyed the new sport of gliding. They decided to build a bicycle with wings and a petrol engine to drive a propeller round.



The Wright brothers spent a lot of time observing birds in flight. By 1903 they had built *The Flyer*. It was a biplane (with two sets of wings) and the pilot lay flat across the lower wing. A series of bicycle chains and gears connected the engine to two propellers, which rotated at about 450 times a minute. On 17 December 1903, at Kitty Hawk in North Carolina, Orville Wright made a 12-second flight over a distance of 35 m. This was the first flight of an airplane in history.

Later that morning Wilbur flew for nearly a minute. They carried on building better aeroplanes. In 1905 Wilbur flew 38 km in a half-hour flight.

education: training, instruction
skills: talent
enjoy: like
glide: fly
flat: extended
gear: toothed part of wheel
connect: link
rotate: go around in circle
carry on: continue

Write TRUE or FALSE:

A bicycle has two wheels. **TRUE**

Wilbur and Orville were brothers.

The first aeroplane flight was in France.

A cyclist rides a bicycle.

Orville was a professor at Dayton University.

A pioneer is someone who does something for the first time.

A bird has two wings.

Wilbur flew a jet plane.

The Wright Brothers called their first plane "Flyer".

Their plane had propellers.

Their plane had a steam engine.

