

Name: _____

Date: _____

Reading Comprehension Exercises

Read the text below and answer the questions!

The Invention of the Airplane

The invention of the airplane is one of humanity's greatest achievements. Before the early 20th century, people could only dream of flying like birds. Many inventors tried to create flying machines, but it wasn't until the Wright brothers, Orville and Wilbur, succeeded that powered flight became a reality. On December 17, 1903, in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, they conducted the first successful flight of a powered, heavier-than-air aircraft. The flight lasted just 12 seconds, but it marked the beginning of modern aviation.

The Wright brothers' success did not happen overnight. They spent years studying the principles of flight and designing their aircraft. They built their wind tunnel to test wing shapes and improve their designs. Their persistence and innovative methods set them apart from other inventors of their time. By carefully observing how birds flew and using scientific experiments, they managed to solve many of the problems that had hindered earlier attempts at flight.

The invention of the airplane transformed transportation and connected the world like never before. Airplanes made it possible to travel long distances in hours rather than days or weeks. Today, aviation is a crucial part of global commerce, tourism, and even humanitarian efforts. The Wright brothers' groundbreaking work continues to inspire new generations of innovators who push the boundaries of what is possible.

QUESTIONS

1. Who invented the airplane?

(Answer: The Wright brothers, Orville and Wilbur)

2. When and where did the first successful powered flight occur?

(Answer: December 17, 1903, in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina)

3. How long did the Wright brothers' first flight last?

(Answer: 12 seconds)

4. What tool did the Wright brothers create to test their designs?

(Answer: A wind tunnel)

5. How did the invention of the airplane change transportation?

(Answer: It allowed long-distance travel in hours instead of days or weeks)