

Spring Term 1 Year 1 History Overview

Key facts

The Wright brothers were known for inventing, building and flying the world's first successful airplane – The Wright Flyer.

They were born in Indiana Wilbur in 1867 and Orville in 1871. In 1903 the brothers achieved the first sustained and rudder controlled airplane flight on 17th December 1903. They are now considered to be the 'fathers of modern aviation'. All modern aviation has been inspired by the Wright brothers.

In 1939, the President Franklin Roosevelt declared Orville Wright's birthday, August 10, to be National Aviation Day. Neil Armstrong carried a piece of the Flyer with him to the moon.

The First Aeroplane Flight

Brief summary/ overview

Orville Wright was interested in flight from a young age and was especially interested in designing, making and flying his own kites.

The 7 and 11 year old boys got a flying toy made from paper, cork and bamboo; a rubber band twirling its blades. They loved playing with it and hoped that one day they would make something that would fly. They started pursuing their dream at an early age, as Orville sold kites to raise money and Wilbur started to read about how birds flew.

When they left school they opened a bicycle repair shop where they explored the different mechanisms which worked to make bikes move. This would help them to develop the rudder for their plane to ensure it could be steered properly and so keep it air borne.

Prior Knowledge

Communicate historically – using historical language, using timelines to show the passage of time.

Key Vocabulary

Transport, aeroplanes flight, duration, fixed wing aircraft, Wright brothers – Orville and Wilbur, inventors, aviators

Resources

On line clips / photographs

Videos of the flight

Newspaper reports/articles

Cross curricular links/visits

History about Amelia Earhart is to follow. Children will be designing, creating and evaluating their own kites too.