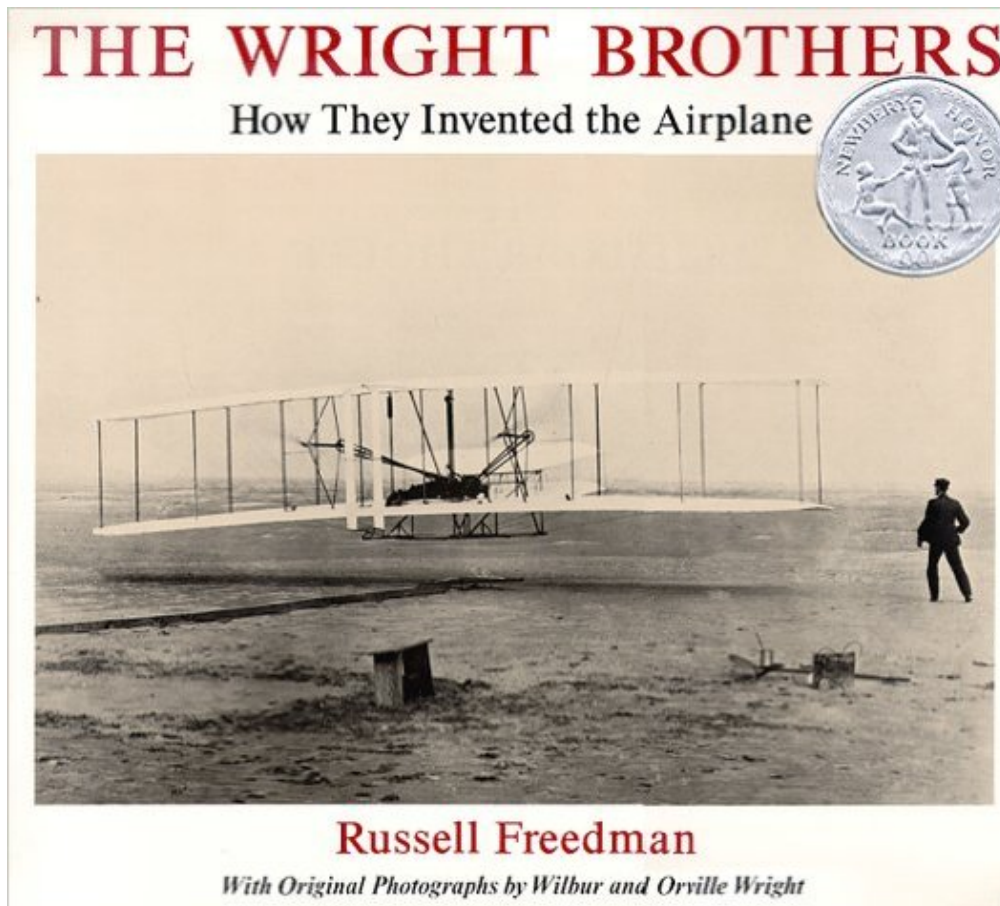


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The Wright Brothers: How They Invented The Airplane



Synopsis

The story of the first powered, sustained, and controlled airplane flight, and the men behind it.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1160L (What's this?)

Paperback: 144 pages

Publisher: Holiday House (March 1, 1994)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 10 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (34 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #171,300 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #43 in [Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works > Inventions & Inventors](#) #78 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Astronomy & Space > Aeronautics & Space](#) #87 in [Books > Children's Books > Cars, Trains & Things That Go > Planes & Aviation](#)

Age Range: 10 - 13 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

Customer Reviews

Another literary coup for Freedman, who has made the "photobiography" for middle school readers his specialty. Using numerous images produced by the brothers themselves along with primary sources such as letters and articles, he explores the lives of the aviation pioneers. The brothers are usually spoken of together; this book helps us see them individuals: the taciturn, older Wilbur and the clothes-conscious, impulsive Orville. They were a confirmed bachelor pair who, according to Orville himself, "lived together, played together, worked together, and, in fact, thought together." Neither smoked, drank, or ever married. Tinkerers from a young age, they ran a printing press before they discovered a vocation as bicycle mechanics and manufacturers. But they always looked for new technology to conquer. After mastering photography, the brothers began thinking about flight science. Others were working on it already, namely a German named Otto Lilienthal, who died in an 1896 glider flight experiment. The US Army and the Smithsonian both sponsored research, but only the Wright Brothers decided to make their flying machines mimic birds in flight, especially the wing movement. As with any successful technology, the airplane took many years and countless

iterations to perfect. But within ten years of the first successful flight, the Wright brothers were world-famous, and flying machines were everywhere. Wilbur did not live to see his invention change the world, however; he died in 1912, at age 45. Orville lived until 1948. The Kitty Hawk dunes, the part of the North Carolina Outer Banks where the first motorized flight happened in December 1903, still look much as they did 100 years ago.

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