

## THE WRIGHTS OF PASSAGE

## STUDY GUIDE



ACTOR STEPHEN WALL AS ORVILLE WRIGHT IN "THE WRIGHTS OF PASSAGE."

## Questions About The Wright Brothers and Their World

The following questions will help you learn about The Wright Brothers, History, North Carolina and Aviation. The questions should enhance your theatre experience; and help you connect ideas in this production to your class curriculum.

1. Where were the Wright Brothers originally from?
2. What type of business did the Wright Brothers run before they started building airplanes?
3. Why did the Wright Brothers choose Kitty Hawk and Kill Devil Hills to test their flyer?
4. What mode of transportation did the Wrights use to get to Kitty Hawk?
5. How long did the Wright Brothers' first powered flight in Kitty Hawk last?
6. Who was President of the United States in 1903, the year of the Wright Brothers' first successful powered flight?
7. What other invention did the Wright Brothers create while designing their airplane?
8. What was the airplane used for during the Wrights' lifetime?
9. What cultural symbols were created to show an appreciation of flight?
10. What are the longitude and latitude of Kitty Hawk, North Carolina?

## Websites

Wright Brothers Aeroplane Company and Museum of Pioneer Aviation.  
<http://www.first-to-fly.com>

TIME 100: Scientists & Thinkers - Wilbur & Orville Wright.  
<http://www.time.com/time/time100/scientist/profile/wright.html>

Wright Brothers, Kitty Hawk and Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina  
<http://www.outerbanks.com/wrightbrothers>

The First Flight simulation  
<http://firstflight.open.ac.uk>

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## VOCABULARY WORDS:

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Aeronautics, Barnstormers, Diligent, Dirigible, Dogged, Drag, Dynamics, Engender, Enola Gay, Expired, Fuselage, Glider, Hobbled Skirt, Mach Number, Nuances, Propeller, Radar, Referenced. Rocket, Sound Barrier, Substantial, Yaw.

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## Questions for discussion

1. Why would people want to fly? Have you ever dreamed you were flying? What was it like?
2. Many accidents occurred in the pursuit of flight and space exploration. Is flight worth the risk? Why?
3. If airplanes did not exist, what would be different about our world?
4. Why do North Carolina and Ohio both claim the Wright Brothers as their own?
5. Neither Wright Brother went to college, yet both loved learning and experimenting. What do you think the Wright Brothers thought about formal education?



## WRIGHT MEMORIAL

Wright Brothers National Memorial, located in Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina, commemorates the first successful sustained powered flights in a heavier-than-air machine.



## AMELIA EARHART

Amelia Mary Earhart was an American aviation pioneer and author. Earhart was the first female pilot to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean. She received the U.S. Distinguished Flying Cross for this record.



## BESSIE COLEMAN

Elizabeth "Bessie" Coleman was an American civil aviator. She was the first female pilot of African-American descent and the first person of African-American descent to hold an international pilot license.

# WRIGHTS OF PASSAGE



Famous Pilots You Should Know About:

**Women Airforce Service Pilots (W.A.S.P.);  
The Tuskegee Airmen; Christa McAuliffe**

– American Teacher Killed In The Space Shuttle  
Challenger Disaster; **Chuck Yeager** – Test Pilot,  
Broke Sound Barrier In 1947; **Apollo 11**

**Astronauts** – The First Men On The Moon (Left  
To Right: Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins, Buzz  
Aldrin)

# Research The Following People And Note How They Contributed To Aviation History:

Charles Lindbergh

Samuel Pierpont Langley

Glenn Curtiss

Harriet Quimby

Manfred von Richthofen (The Red Baron)

Frank Petersen

Igor Sikorsky

Alan Shepard

John Glenn

Laika the Dog

Sally Ride



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