

## LANGUAGE ARTS ACTIVITY

### **Flight at Kitty Hawk**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Read this news account of the Wright Brothers' flight at Kitty Hawk in 1903. Then answer the questions that follow.**

**FRIDAY DECEMBER 18, 1903, KITTY HAWK, N.C.** —“Members of the Kill Devil Hills Lifesaving Station were among the six eyewitnesses yesterday who observed the flight of a powered aircraft over the frigid sand dunes of the Outer Banks.

Wilbur Wright, 36, and his brother, Orville Wright, 32, of Dayton, Ohio, had been here since September trying to prove that they could fly their 600-pound machine. They chose the location in part for its soft ground, about which Dare County Commissioner Bill Tate told them three years ago.

At 10:35 a.m., with northerly winds gusting up to 27 mph and a temperature that felt about 4 degrees, Orville maneuvered the brothers' “flying machine” down a 60-foot wooden track. The craft took off, traveling 120 feet in its 12 seconds of flight. The flight marked the first time a pilot had lifted, flown, and powered an aircraft completely under control.

The brothers made three more flights yesterday morning—the fourth flight, piloted by Wilbur, measured 852 feet. The machine was aloft for 59 seconds. Around noon, after the last flight, a strong gust of wind struck the machine and damaged it beyond repair. No one was seriously injured in the accident.”

**Read the statements and indicate whether they are true or false.**

1. No eyewitnesses were present to see the Wright Brothers' historic flight. T / F
2. The Wright brothers' longest flight on December 17, 1903, was their first. T / F

**Select the letter with the correct response.**

3. At what time of day did the Wright Brothers test their “flying machine?”  
(A) dawn (B) mid-morning (C) late afternoon (D) dusk

**Write a short answer to the each of the following questions.**

4. What significant event occurred on December 17, 1903?
5. Why were Wilbur and Orville testing their “flying machine” at the Outer Banks?

**Write a response to the following scenario.**

6. Imagine that you witnessed the historic flights of Wilbur and Orville Wright. Write a letter to a friend describing what you saw and how you felt.