

The Wright Brothers

Wilbur and Orville Wright were brothers. They grew up in the USA. They built and tested the first aeroplane.

Childhood

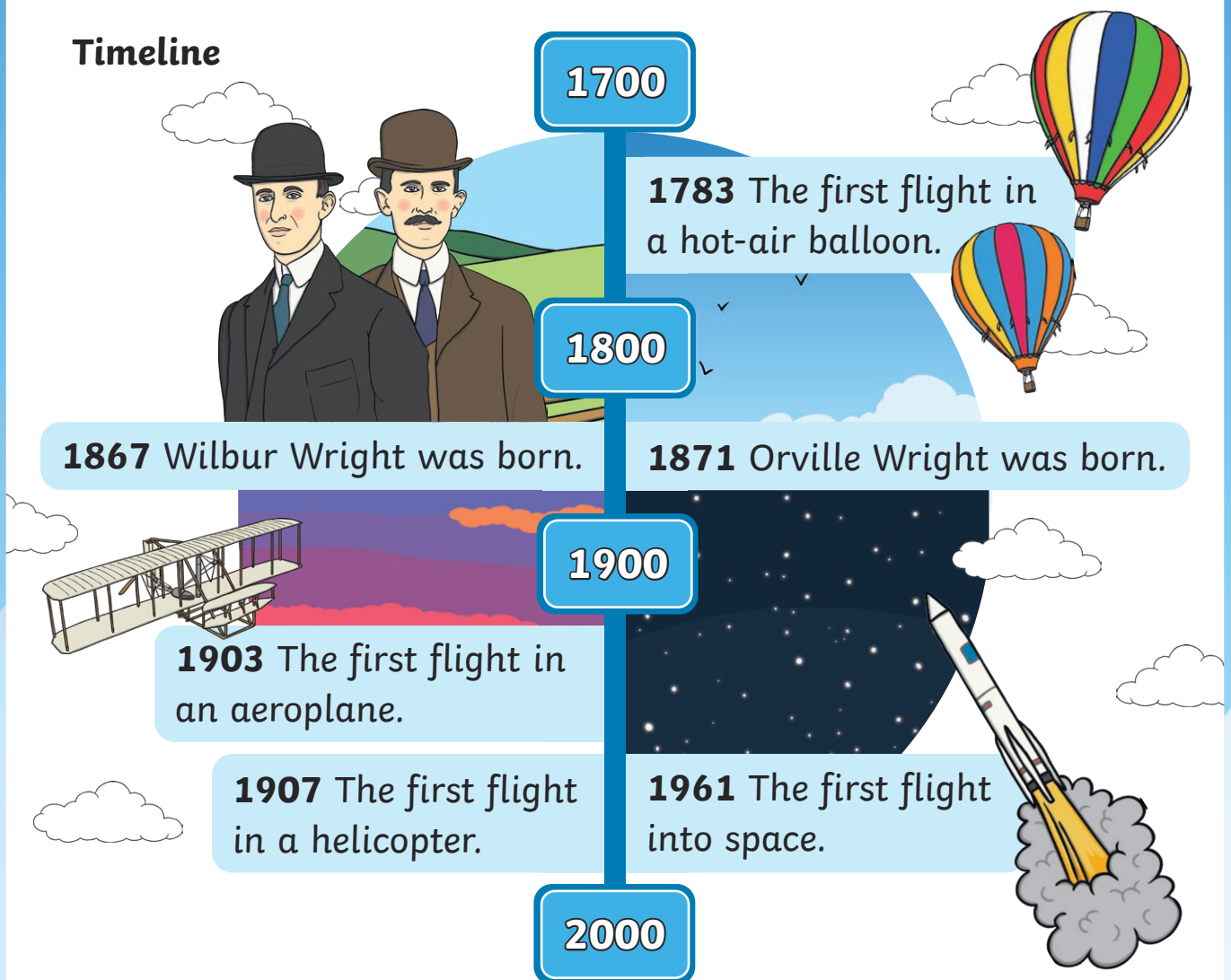
The brothers loved to build things and test new ideas. Their father gave them a toy helicopter. This made them want to fly. They also liked to find out about how birds fly.

Their Flights

Orville made the first flight in an aeroplane in December 1903. It only lasted for 12 seconds but the brothers did not give up.

Wilbur tried to fly a new aircraft in November 1904. The flight lasted for over five minutes.

Timeline



Questions

1. What did the Wright brothers do? Tick one.
 - ☐ Built and tested the first aeroplane.
 - ☐ Built and tested the first rocket.
 - ☐ Built and tested the first hot-air balloon.

2. What did their father give them? Tick one.
 - ☐ a toy bird
 - ☐ a toy train
 - ☐ a toy helicopter

3. How long was the first flight? Tick one.
 - ☐ 12 days
 - ☐ 12 seconds
 - ☐ 12 minutes

4. Who flew a new aircraft in November 1904? Tick one.
 - ☐ Orville
 - ☐ Wilbur
 - ☐ their father

5. What happened in 1961? Tick one.
 - ☐ The first flight into space.
 - ☐ The first flight in a helicopter.
 - ☐ The Wright brothers were born.

Answers

1. What did the Wright brothers do? Tick one.

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- ☐ Built and tested the first rocket.
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- ☒ **a toy helicopter**

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The Wright Brothers

Wilbur and Orville Wright were brothers. They grew up in the USA. They are known for inventing and testing the first aeroplane.

Their Childhood

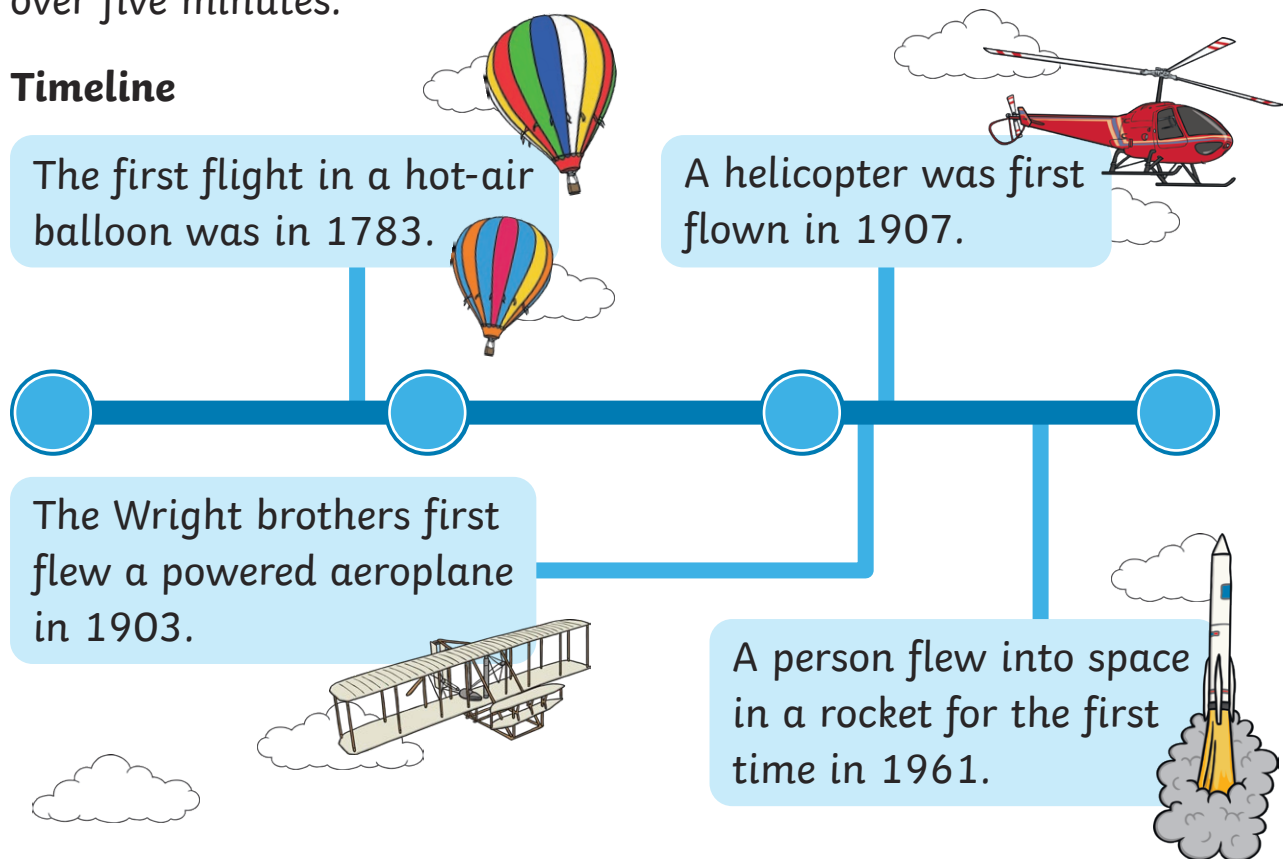
Wilbur was born in 1867. Orville was born a few years later in 1871. The brothers loved to build things and think of new ideas. Their father gave them a toy helicopter. It flew with the help of rubber bands. This made them want to fly.

The brothers found out lots about how birds fly. This helped them to understand how to make wings for aeroplanes.

Their Flights

Orville made the first flight in an aeroplane. This was in North Carolina in December 1903. He flew 120 feet through the air. This is as long as four and a half buses. The flight only lasted for 12 seconds but the brothers did not give up. Wilbur tried to fly a new aircraft in November 1904. This time, the flight lasted for over five minutes.

Timeline



Questions

1. What are the Wright brothers known for? Tick one.

- ☐ inventing the first aeroplane
- ☐ inventing the first rocket
- ☐ inventing the first hot-air balloon

2. Draw **three** lines and match each year with the event that happened.

1871

Wilbur tried to fly a new aircraft.

1903

Orville was born.

1904

Orville made the first flight in an aeroplane.

3. When was Wilbur born? Tick one.

- ☐ 1783
- ☐ 1901
- ☐ 1867

4. Find and copy how long the first flight lasted for.

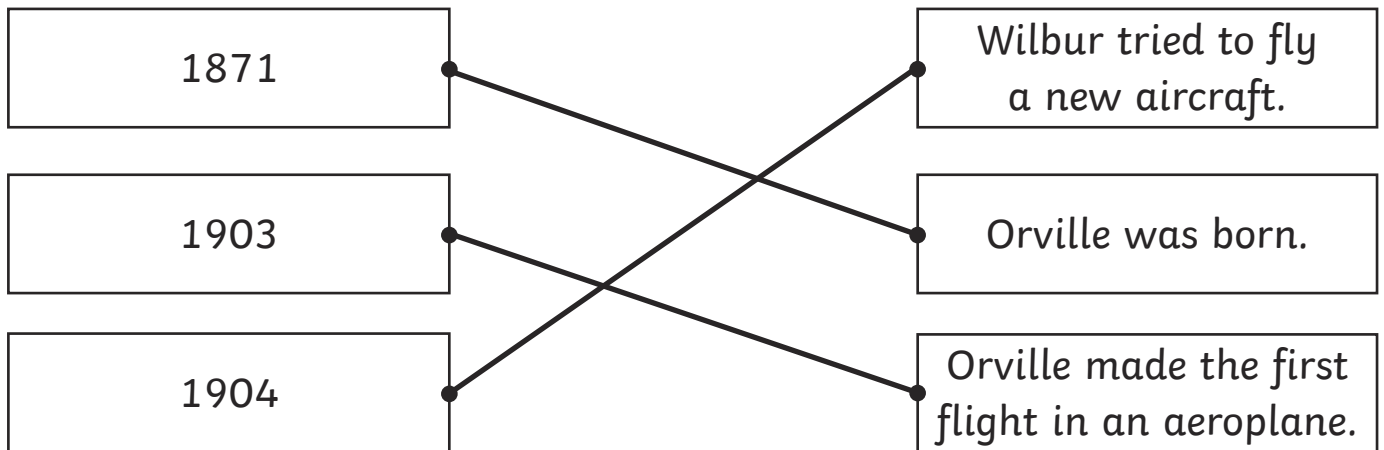
5. What helped the brothers to understand how to make wings?

Answers

1. What are the Wright brothers known for? Tick one.

- ☒ **inventing the first aeroplane**
- ☐ inventing the first rocket
- ☐ inventing the first hot-air balloon

2. Draw **three** lines and match each year with the event that happened.



3. When was Wilbur born? Tick one.

- ☐ 1783
- ☐ 1901
- ☒ **1867**

4. Find and copy how long the first flight lasted for.

12 seconds

5. What helped the brothers to understand how to make wings?

The brothers found out lots about how birds fly. This helped them to understand how to make wings for aeroplanes.

The Wright Brothers

Wilbur and Orville Wright were brothers who grew up in Ohio, USA. They are famous for inventing and testing the first aeroplane. This was an important step for world transport.

Their Early Years

Wilbur was born in 1867 and his brother was born a few years later in 1871. The brothers loved to think of new ideas and invent things when they were children. Their interest in flight began because their father gave them a toy helicopter that flew with the help of rubber bands.

Wilbur and Orville spent time watching how birds fly. This helped them to understand how to make wings for their aircraft. As they grew up, they found out how to make propellers. Propellers use turning blades to help a plane to move forward. The Wright brothers also learnt how to make an engine to power their plane. They made sure that it was light so that their plane could take off.

The First Flight

Wilbur tried to fly the aeroplane first in December 1903. It did not work so they spent three days fixing the plane and waiting for good weather. Then, Orville flew the aeroplane. He flew 120 feet through the air. This is as long as four and a half buses. The flight only lasted for 12 seconds but the brothers did not give up.

Flyer II

Wilbur tried to fly a new aircraft in November 1904. It was called Flyer II and the flight lasted for over five minutes.



Did You Know...?

Wilbur and Orville's work gave other people new ideas. Aeroplanes started to carry passengers. People used to travel by train and boat but this could take months. Today, people can use planes to quickly travel all over the world in just a few hours.

Questions

1. What are Wilbur and Orville Wright famous for? Tick one.

- ☐ Inventing and testing the first helicopter.
- ☐ Inventing and testing the first aeroplane.
- ☐ Inventing and testing the first hot-air balloon.

2. Fill in the missing word.

Their father gave them a toy _____.

3. Why did they make their engine light? Tick one.

- ☐ So that their plane could take off.
- ☐ To help their plane move forward.
- ☐ So that the blades could turn.

4. How long did the flight in Flyer II last for?

5. What do propellers do?

6. How did people travel around the world before planes were invented?

Answers

1. What are Wilbur and Orville Wright famous for? Tick one.

- ☐ Inventing and testing the first helicopter.
- ☒ **Inventing and testing the first aeroplane.**
- ☐ Inventing and testing the first hot-air balloon.

2. Fill in the missing word.

Their father gave them a toy **helicopter**.

3. Why did they make their engine light? Tick one.

- ☒ **So that their plane could take off.**
- ☐ To help their plane move forward.
- ☐ So that the blades could turn.

4. How long did the flight in Flyer II last for?

The flight only lasted for 12 seconds.

5. What do propellers do?

Propellers use turning blades to help a plane to move forward.

6. How did people travel around the world before planes were invented?

Pupils' own responses, such as: People used to travel by train and boat before planes were invented.