

Study Guide



The Wrights of Passage

Originally commissioned by the North Carolina Association of Educators, this family drama celebrates the first one hundred years of flight. Speaking the Wrights' own words and dressed in period costumes, professional actors portray the brothers with enthusiasm and vigor. Wilbur and Orville Wright construct an abstract replica of the famous flyer while revealing their biographies and re-living the poetry of their influences, discoveries, failures, achievements and successes.

Did you know? This performance is a public service of the Sampson County Exposition Center, Sampson CenterStage Performing Arts Series and the County of Sampson and is totally funded and underwritten through the financial contributions of many businesses, corporations, civic organizations, and individuals from across Sampson County and is provided **FREE** to students from Clinton City Schools and Sampson County Schools.

Many thanks to all **Class Acts-Sampson CenterStage for Students** Sponsors...On the day of the performance a complete list of Class Acts Sponsors will be distributed to each teacher...

How you can help! Please take a moment to have YOUR students write a note of appreciation to our sponsors...without them this performance would not be possible...

This study guide was prepared and provided as a courtesy of the ***Class Acts-Sampson CenterStage for Students*** series and is designed to aid in preparing students for an exciting performance...We encourage you to make use of this valuable resource designed to not only enhance each student's theatergoing experience; but to also complement their total educational experience.

GOING TO THE THEATRE (101)



Going to the Theatre

Watching a live performance is very different than watching television or going to the movies. When you see a live performance you play a part too! Your role is an audience member. As an audience member you should obey the following instructions:

When you arrive, follow an usher to your seat. Your group may be assigned to specific areas or seats in the theatre. Please stay in the seat that you are given until the show is over.

Most theaters do not allow cameras, cellular telephones or recording devices. Please leave these at home or in your classroom.

Food, drink, candy and chewing gum are not allowed in the theatre.

Book bags and/or oversized handbags are not allowed in the theatre.

When the theater lights dim, it means the show is about to begin...Please be quiet.

Listen and watch carefully. Talking and making noise disturbs the performers on stage and your fellow audience members. Please hold your comments until after the performance. Of course when something is funny you may laugh. You may even cry when something is sad.

Show your appreciation by clapping when the performance is over and when the performers bow.

Stay seated after the show and an usher or your teacher will lead you out of the theater.

Theatre Collaborators



When we see a show, we often think of only the performers on stage. However, many people come together to make a performance happen. Read the list of theatre collaborators and answer the discussion questions with a partner.

Playwright - writes the play

Director - helps the performers understand their roles and tells them where to move on stage. The director also collaborates with designers to create the entire picture you see on stage.

Costume Designer - imagines and designs the clothing and other items worn by the performers on stage.

Lighting Designer - imagines and creates the lights of a performance to enhance the mood and the setting.

Sound Designer - imagines and creates the music and other sound effects which help tell the story of a play

Set Designer - makes a map of each set and its changes

Props - items held or used by the actors on stage that help tell the story

Gels - pieces of plastic that are used in stage lights to change their color

THINK ABOUT IT!



Why is changing the color of lights important for the mood in a scene?

If you were a character in a play, what color gel would you choose for your spotlight?
Why?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS...



1. If you were to work in the theater business, which theater collaborator would you rather be?
2. Which job seems most challenging? Why?

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 businesses did the Wright Brothers run before they started building airplanes?
3. Why were Kitty Hawk and Kill Devil Hills chosen by the Wright Brothers 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 trying to build their airplane?
8. What was the airplane used for during the lifetime of the Wrights?
9. What symbols can you think of that were created by man 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>

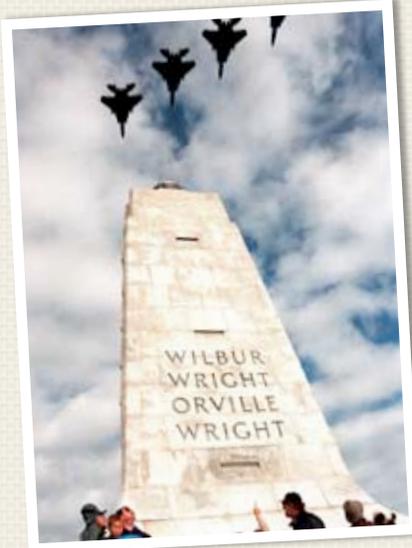
The First Flight simulation
<http://firstflight.open.ac.uk>

VOCABULARY WORDS:

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.

Questions for discussion

1. Why would man want to fly? Have you ever dreamed you were flying? What was it like?
2. Flight is risky. 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 to be the originators of the Wright Brothers' work?
5. Neither Wright Brother went to college, yet they both loved learning and experimenting. What do you think the 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

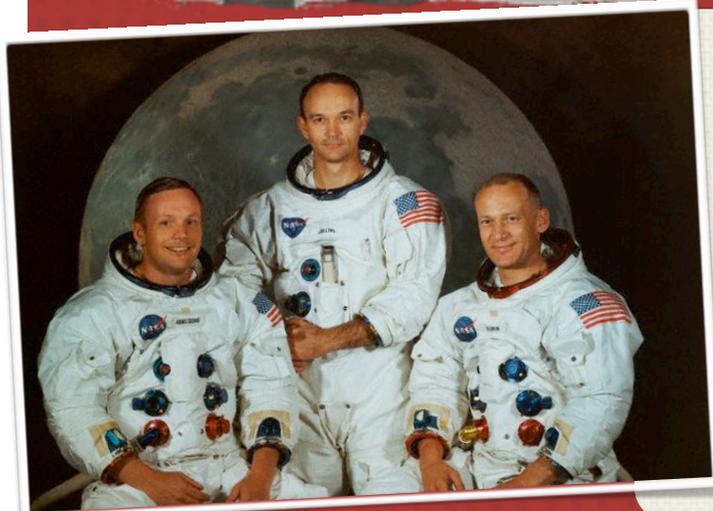
Elizabeth "Bessie" Coleman was an American civil aviator. She was the first female pilot of African American descent and the first person of African American descent to hold an international pilot license.

WRIGHTS OF PASSAGE



Famous Pilots You Should Know About...

Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP's);
The Tuskegee Airmen; Christa McAuliffe - American Teacher And One Of The Seven Crew Members Killed In The Space Shuttle Challenger Disaster; **Chuck Yeager** - Test Pilot Breaks The 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



EBZB PRODUCTIONS

YOUR WORLD IS OUR STAGE!

EbzB offers professional touring theater and teaching artists; EbzB develops works to promote integrity, self-discovery and positive transformation of artists, audiences, individuals, and communities.

See our other Arts-In-Education offerings, including workshops and residencies at www.ebzb.org.





AT HOME

Dear Parents,

Recently, your student attended the play *The Wrights of Passage* a story based on the passion and focus of two brothers who wanted to prove it was possible for man to fly. The brothers made the first powered flights in 1903, in a machine of the Wrights' own invention and construction. The Wrights' discoveries provided the foundation and technology still used today in modern aviation and space exploration. This play took your student on an amazing educational journey into the life of Orville and Wilbur Wright.

Prior to attendance, teachers reviewed proper theatre etiquette with students and gave some background information about the play .

As a parent, you are your child's best teacher. They can also teach you through their experiences. Ask your student about the performance they attended and read through this booklet. Share some experiences that you or other family members have had with inventing, construction or flying.

Thank you for your participation in the arts.



DO IT!

A reviewer writes an opinion of the actors, sets, and director for a newspaper or magazine. Write your review of the performance for your family.
