

Read

FIRSTS *in* FLIGHT

by Edward Castillo

- 1 People have dreamed of flying since the beginning of time. An ancient Greek myth tells of a boy and his father who flew with wings made of wax and feathers. But the invention of the kite marks the true beginning of flight history. Kites were first flown in China around 400 B.C.E. Around that time, people began to study the science of flight.
- 2 For centuries, inventors built mechanical wings, attaching them to their arms. These efforts failed, but people still searched for ways to fly. During the 1480s, Leonardo da Vinci made more than 100 sketches of flying machines, which would later influence other inventors.
- 3 In 1783, the Montgolfier brothers built the first hot-air balloon. The balloon's passengers were a sheep, a rooster, and a duck. The brothers solved the problem of lift, but the balloon did not allow riders to move forward or steer.
- 4 In the 1850s, George Cayley hoped to achieve controlled flight. His glider designs shaped the work of Otto Lilienthal. In 1891, Lilienthal became the first person to launch a manned glider. He wrote a book about his experiments, which inspired two brothers from Ohio, Orville and Wilbur Wright.
- 5 The Wright brothers tested many flight theories with balloons and kites. Their 1902 *Wright Glider* could be controlled with a movable tail. But their greatest accomplishment was adding an engine to lift their glider into the air.
- 6 On December 17, 1903, at Kill Devil Hills in North Carolina, the *Wright Flyer* first flew. Orville Wright was the first to successfully pilot a motorized flight.



Close Reader Habits

Do the ideas and actions of inventors influence other, later inventors?
Reread the article.

Underline details that tell how some inventors influence other inventors.



Use quotes to support your inferences. Otherwise, your inferences will seem like guesses.

Think Use what you learned from reading the history article to respond to the following questions.

- 1 This question has two parts. Answer Part A. Then answer Part B.

Part A

Which inference is **best** supported by the passage?

- A Inventors learn from the work of others.
- B Inventing is much easier than it used to be.
- C Most inventors try to keep their ideas from being stolen.
- D Some inventors are geniuses who don't need help from others.

Part B

Which **two** sentences from the text **best** illustrate the inference in Part A?

- A "People have dreamed of flying since the beginning of time."
- B "In 1783, the Montgolfier brothers built the first hot-air balloon."
- C "His glider designs shaped the work of Otto Lilienthal."
- D "In 1891, Lilienthal became the first person to launch a manned glider."
- E "He wrote a book about his experiments, which inspired two brothers from Ohio, Orville and Wilbur Wright."
- F "Orville Wright was the first to successfully pilot a motorized flight."

Talk

- 2 The technology of flight improved greatly in less than 150 years. What evidence from the passage supports this idea? Use the chart on page 45 to collect quotes from the passage and organize your thinking.

Write

- 3 **Short Response** What evidence from the passage supports the idea that the technology of flight improved greatly in less than 150 years? Use quotes from the passage in your response. Use the space provided on page 45 to write your answer.

HINT First, restate the idea from the question. Then provide the evidence supporting that idea.