Flight and Evidence

Trace an event through dates, sources, and points of view

3.P.2.2 "Develop skills which demonstrate an understanding of historical events and the people who shaped our history. Explain the difference between a primary and secondary source of information; gather basic information (i.e., author, date…"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline what went wrong with the plane and how the brothers responded. Circle the author and date of each source so you can tell who reported the flights and when.

The Wright Brothers Take Flight

1. On December 14, 1903, Wilbur Wright tried to fly a powered plane near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. The plane rose, then dropped and was damaged. Wilbur and his brother Orville fixed it. On December 17, Orville flew the repaired plane for 12 seconds. That short trip was the first sustained, controlled flight in a powered plane. The brothers made more flights that day.

2. After the flights, Orville sent his father a telegram on December 17, 1903. A telegram is a short message sent over wires. Orville reported that they had made four flights. He helped fly the plane and wrote the message on the day of the flights. His message tells what he reported, but it does not tell us how every person watching felt.

3. Imagine that a museum writer named Maya Chen makes an article in 2020 using old flight records. Maya was not there in 1903. Her article tells about the flights many years after they happened. A person watching might have felt surprised, while Orville might have felt proud. These are possible points of view, not words either person wrote. The dates help readers put the events in order.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Who wrote the December 17 telegram, and why is it a primary source?

2. When was Maya Chen's imagined article written, and why would it be a secondary source?

3. Why could Orville fly the plane on December 17 after the December 14 try failed?

4. How might a person watching and Orville have seen the December 17 flight differently?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Think of an event at school or home that followed a clear action. In three sentences, tell the action and its immediate result, then describe how two people might see the event differently.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 3 · 3.P.2.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline what went wrong with the plane and how the brothers responded. Circle the author and date of each source so you can tell who reported the flights and when. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Who wrote the December 17 telegram, and why is it a primary source?	**Orville Wright wrote it. It is a primary source because he took part in the flights and sent the message that day.**
2	When was Maya Chen's imagined article written, and why would it be a secondary source?	**It was written in 2020. It would be a secondary source because Maya was not there and used older records to tell about the flights.**
3	Why could Orville fly the plane on December 17 after the December 14 try failed?	**The brothers fixed the plane after it was damaged.**
4	How might a person watching and Orville have seen the December 17 flight differently?	**A person watching might have felt surprised, while Orville might have felt proud.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

When our class fish tank leaked, our teacher moved the fish into a bowl. I felt worried because the fish had so little space. My friend felt relieved because the fish were safe from the leak.

Accept any answer that identifies Orville's telegram as firsthand and the imagined later article as based on older records. For Your Turn, look for a clear action and immediate result plus two distinct points of view.