How Flight Began

Use two sources to explain a historic achievement.

5.P.4 "Develop a variety of evidence-based written products designed for multiple purposes. Summarize and paraphrase, integrate evidence, and cite sources to create written products, research projects..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the research question, circle each source name the first time it appears, and number one supporting fact from each source 1 or 2. Use your marks to track how evidence builds the answer.

More Than One Flight

1 How did two bicycle makers learn to fly a powered airplane? That question led me to the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum's page, "1903 Wright Flyer." It explains that Orville and Wilbur Wright made their own propellers and had a small engine built for their airplane. On December 17, 1903, their first powered flight lasted 12 seconds and traveled 120 feet. That short trip proved their design could leave the ground.

2 A second source, the National Park Service's "Wright Brothers National Memorial," adds what happened before that day. The brothers tested gliders on hills near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, and learned how to steer in the air. The park service reports that they made four powered flights on December 17. Their longest flight lasted 59 seconds. These details show that the 12-second flight was part of a process of testing and changing ideas.

3 Together, the two sources answer my question: the Wright brothers learned to fly by solving problems over time, not by making one lucky attempt. Their glider tests helped them learn to steer (National Park Service). They also built an airplane with propellers and a small engine; its first flight covered 120 feet (Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum). Each source adds a different piece of the explanation.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What research question guides the passage? Why is it more focused than “Tell me about airplanes”?

2. Paraphrase the Smithsonian source’s first-flight numbers in your own words. Name the source.

3. Which National Park Service detail shows that the brothers learned through practice? Explain how it supports the passage’s main claim.

4. Which claim can this passage support: “The brothers made four powered flights that day” or “Thousands watched the flights”? Explain your choice.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum label arguing which deserves more space in an exhibit: the glider tests or the first powered flight. Include one detail from each source, cite both sources by name, and explain your choice.

ANSWER KEY

How Flight Began

GRADE 5 · 5.P.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the research question, circle each source name the first time it appears, and number one supporting fact from each source 1 or 2. Use your marks to track how evidence builds the answer. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What research question guides the passage? Why is it more focused than "Tell me about airplanes"?	**The question is how two bicycle makers learned to fly a powered airplane. It focuses on the Wright brothers and how they developed their airplane.**
2	Paraphrase the Smithsonian source's first-flight numbers in your own words. Name the source.	**According to the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, the first powered flight covered 120 feet in only 12 seconds.**
3	Which National Park Service detail shows that the brothers learned through practice? Explain how it supports the passage's main claim.	**The brothers tested gliders and learned to steer. This supports the claim that they solved problems over time.**
4	Which claim can this passage support: "The brothers made four powered flights that day" or "Thousands watched the flights"? Explain your choice.	**It supports the claim that the brothers made four powered flights. The National Park Service reports four flights, but the passage gives no number of people who watched.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The glider tests deserve more space because they show how the brothers learned to control an airplane. The National Park Service says their glider tests helped them learn to steer. The Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum reports that their first powered flight lasted just 12 seconds. Visitors should see the practice behind that brief flight, not only the flight itself.

Accept accurate paraphrases and any defensible choice in the museum label. The label should use a relevant detail from each named source and explain how the details support the student's choice.