

READER 1: This flight museum is quite authentic. Those figures of Orville and Wilbur Wright look real.

READER 2: I wish they were. I have a lot of questions for them.

READER 3: I'd like to know how they got interested in flying and what happened to them after that first flight.

4/ORVILLE WRIGHT: Having a chat would be nice after all these years. Don't you agree Wilbur? Now, what would you like to know?

READER 1: Can you tell us about your invention of the airplane?

5/WILBUR WRIGHT: Of course we can. We were there!

READER 2: If people had never flown, why were you interested in flying?

4/ORVILLE WRIGHT: We grew up in a home where we were encouraged to investigate whatever aroused our curiosity.

5/WILBUR WRIGHT: Our father came home from a business trip with a gift. Before we could look at it, he threw it into the air. The toy went up instead of down.

4/ORVILLE WRIGHT: The gift was a toy helicopter made of bamboo and paper and propelled by a rubber band. We made our own models. We were always fascinated by the way things worked.

READER 3: Didn't you own a bicycle shop?

5/WILBUR WRIGHT: We did. Bicycles were the latest craze in the 1890s, and we loved cycling. At first, we just traded cycles, then we started repairing them, and finally, we made our own brand of bicycle.

READER 1: How did you get from bicycles to airplanes? Were other people experimenting with airplanes?

4/ORVILLE WRIGHT: People had been experimenting with flight for years, and Wilbur was not really happy in the bicycle shop.

5/WILBUR WRIGHT: I wanted to invent something new, not just put together bicycles. I read about a German named Lilienthal who had studied birds and flight. He made a glider and he could glide through the air like a bird.

READER 2: What happened to him?

4/ORVILLE WRIGHT: He made thousands of flights and was planning to add an engine. Unfortunately, before he was able to achieve his goal, he died in a crash.

5/WILBUR WRIGHT: His problem was with the control. I guess his death piqued our interest. We started reading everything we could find.

READER 3: Was there much material available? I thought you two started the whole idea.

READER 1: I know da Vinci was interested in flying, and he lived in the 1400s. There were also hot air balloons, as well as the gliders.