

The Wright Brothers | Lesson Plan

How did the Wright brothers use teamwork and compromise to overcome challenges and succeed in inventing the first successful airplane?

Students will understand how brothers Orville and Wilbur Wright became famous for inventing and flying the first successful airplane in 1903. Students will understand how strong teamwork skills and the ability to compromise led to the Wright brothers' great success in aeronautics.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify the key achievements of Wilbur and Orville Wright that have contributed to their lasting fame and significance in aviation history.
- Explain how the Wright brothers' background and interests influenced their invention of the airplane.
- Describe how the Wright brothers discovered a reliable way to control their craft.
- Explain the meaning of wing-warping and how this contributed to the Wright brothers' findings and success.
- Analyze how Wilbur and Orville Wright's differences made them great partners.
- Evaluate how the Wright brothers' teamwork skills and ability to compromise led to their success in aeronautical engineering.

Key Vocabulary:

- **Aeronautics:** The science of designing and flying machines like airplanes or helicopters.
- **Aeronautical engineer:** Someone who designs and builds airplanes and spacecraft. They use math, science, and creativity to make flying machines that are safe and efficient.
- **Pioneer:** Someone who is one of the first to do something new. They explore, discover, or start something that hasn't been done before.
- **Compromise:** When two or more people find a way to settle their differences by giving up some of what they want to achieve a goal.

Educational Standards: CCRA.L.1, CCRA.L.2, CCRA.L.4, CCRA.W.2, CCRA.W.4, CCRA.R.7, CCRA.SL.1, CCRA.SL.2, CCRA.SL.4

Academic Subject Areas: Biography, America, Resilience

What You'll Need

- Video: *The Wright Brothers: First in Flight* (Watch [Here](#))
- Worksheet: *The Wright Brothers: First in Flight* (Click [Here](#))

Lesson Plan (45 minutes)



Scan to watch episode:

Warm-Up: (15 minutes)

1. Initiate a class discussion on teamwork and what it means to compromise while working on a team.
2. Encourage students to think of a time they have been a part of a team and what challenges they faced. Prompt students to consider the differences between teammates or partners, their strengths and weaknesses, and how they had to compromise to reach solutions and work together effectively. Invite students to share examples aloud and brainstorm together.
3. Invite students to think of famous examples of partners or teams that have worked together to achieve something great. Allow students to share these examples with a partner or the whole class. Share with students that the Wright brothers are a popular example of a partnership in which, despite differences, worked together to achieve something extraordinary. Invite students to share what they already know about the Wright brothers and their story.
4. Display a copy of the "The Wright Brothers Worksheet" and pass out individual worksheets to students.
5. Instruct students to complete the Warm-Up Activity. Students will write the definition of *compromise* in their own words, an example of a compromise, and why they think compromise is important for teamwork.
6. Read over the rest of the worksheet as a class so students know what to listen for during the video.
7. Set the stage for the upcoming video by highlighting the theme of teamwork and how compromise is essential to effective teamwork. Encourage students to look for ways throughout the video in which the Wright brothers made compromises and appreciated each other's differences to achieve great success.

Watch and Complete: (20 minutes)

1. Watch the video.
2. Assist students with completing the worksheet alongside the video, encouraging note-taking and active listening.
3. Pause throughout the video to allow students to answer questions—especially short answer responses. If necessary, model short answer responses by restating the question and writing a complete sentence.

Wrap-Up: (10-15 minutes)

1. Allow students 10 minutes to complete the worksheet independently.
2. Collect as formative assessment or discuss in class.
3. Ask students to read aloud their responses to the Making Connections section, reflecting on what they learned from the Wright brothers' story and how they can be better partners or teammates.
4. Conclude with open-ended prompts on the importance of compromise and the value of differences in a partnership or on a team:
 - How do you think the Wright brothers' ability to compromise and appreciate each other's differences helped them achieve success? Can you think of a time when compromising helped you achieve something with a team or partner?

- In what ways did Wilbur and Orville Wright's differences make them great partners? How can differences between people on a team be a good thing?
 - How can you apply the teamwork skills and ability to compromise, as demonstrated by the Wright brothers, to your own life? What are some situations where these skills might be useful?
5. Encourage students to strive to recognize differences as strengths and be willing to compromise like Wilbur and Orville Wright in order to achieve extraordinary things.

Don't have time for the full lesson? Quick Activity (15-20 minutes)

Distribute the worksheet and allow students to complete it while they follow along with the video.