

Name _____

Wright Brothers: Pioneers of Powered Flight

Short Answer Key

1. The Wright Brothers' three-axis control system allowed the pilot to control an aircraft's pitch (up and down movement), roll (side-to-side movement), and yaw (turning left or right). This system was essential for maintaining stable and controlled flight, ensuring that the aircraft could be maneuvered effectively.
2. The significance of the Wright Flyer's first powered flight on December 17, 1903, was that it marked the first successful powered, controlled flight in history. The aircraft flew for 12 seconds, covering a distance of 120 feet, demonstrating the feasibility of powered flight.
3. After their first flight, the Wright Brothers continued to improve their aircraft by refining the design, enhancing stability, and increasing flight duration. They conducted numerous flights to demonstrate the reliability and practicality of their invention, including longer and more controlled flights.
4. The Wright Brothers faced skepticism from the scientific community and potential investors. Many doubted the feasibility of powered flight. To overcome these challenges, they conducted public demonstrations and continued to refine their aircraft, eventually gaining recognition for their achievement.
5. The Wright Brothers' invention had a lasting legacy in the world of aviation. It opened the door to commercial air travel and modern aviation, connecting people and places across the globe. Their contributions also influenced aircraft design, navigation, and military aviation.

