

# SENSATIONAL SCIENTISTS – THE WRIGHT BROTHERS ANSWERS

**Q1.** In what period of history were the Wright brothers born? (Not the date!)

**A1.** The Industrial Revolution.

**Q2.** How old were they when they became interested in 'flight'?

**A2.** 12 and 7

**Q3.** What does the word 'scraps' mean?

**A3.** They used to fight or argue about things.

**Q4.** Complete the grid below using information from the whole text. Write either a question or an answer depending on which section is missing. The first one has been done for you.

**A4.**

| Question   | Answer  |
|--|---|
| How old were the Wright brothers when they owned a bicycle shop?     | In their 20s.                                     |
| What tragedy happened in 1912?                                       | Wilbur died suddenly from typhoid.                |
| What was taken to the Moon in 1969?                                  | A piece of wood and fabric from the Wright Flyer. |
| Their patent was finally granted in which year?                      | 1906  |
| How many different wing shapes did they test before they were happy? | Up to 200.  |
| Where was the Wright Flyer tested?                                   | At Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, USA.               |

**Q5.** What do you think the word 'championing' means in the final paragraph?

**A5.** Promoting, developing, talking about flight and flying, trying to ensure that people continued to work on and think about flight.

**Q6.** Why were the Wright brothers classed as celebrities? Give your answer using evidence from the text.

**A6.** They had 'finally unlocked the secret of mechanical flight'. They had done something no-one else had done. 'Interest in powered flight exploded' means that people thought it was an amazing discovery, they were very excited by it. Everyone wanted to know the brothers and were interested in their work and their discoveries.

**Q7.** Which phrase in the text means experimenting and trying things out for themselves? Look in the section about when they were in their 20s.

**A7.** 'Hands-on tinkering'.

**Q8.** Using evidence from the text, in your opinion what helped to make the two brothers so successful? Find **two** reasons.

- A8.**
- They grew up at a time of discovery and invention; the Industrial Revolution.
  - They talked about their thoughts and dreams from when they were little.
  - They were encouraged to pursue ideas; to investigate whatever aroused their curiosity.
  - They persevered and kept on testing and improving designs, including trying over 200 different wing shapes.
  - They unlocked the secret of mechanical flight, something no-one else had done.

**Q9.** What is the main material used to build aircraft today?

**A9.** Aluminium

**Q10.** Why didn't it matter that the plane flew only 260 metres? Use evidence from the text to explain your answer.

**A10.** People were very excited that they had made the plane fly. It didn't matter that it flew only a short way. The point is that it lifted off the ground and flew. The phrase 'it had done its job' means that it had done enough to make people interested and to prove that it could be done.

