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READERS

# FIRST FLIGHT

THE STORY OF THE WRIGHT BROTHERS



CARYN JENNER

## Icarus

In the ancient myth, the Sun melted Icarus's wings and he fell into the sea. Some people saw this as a warning that humans were not meant to fly.

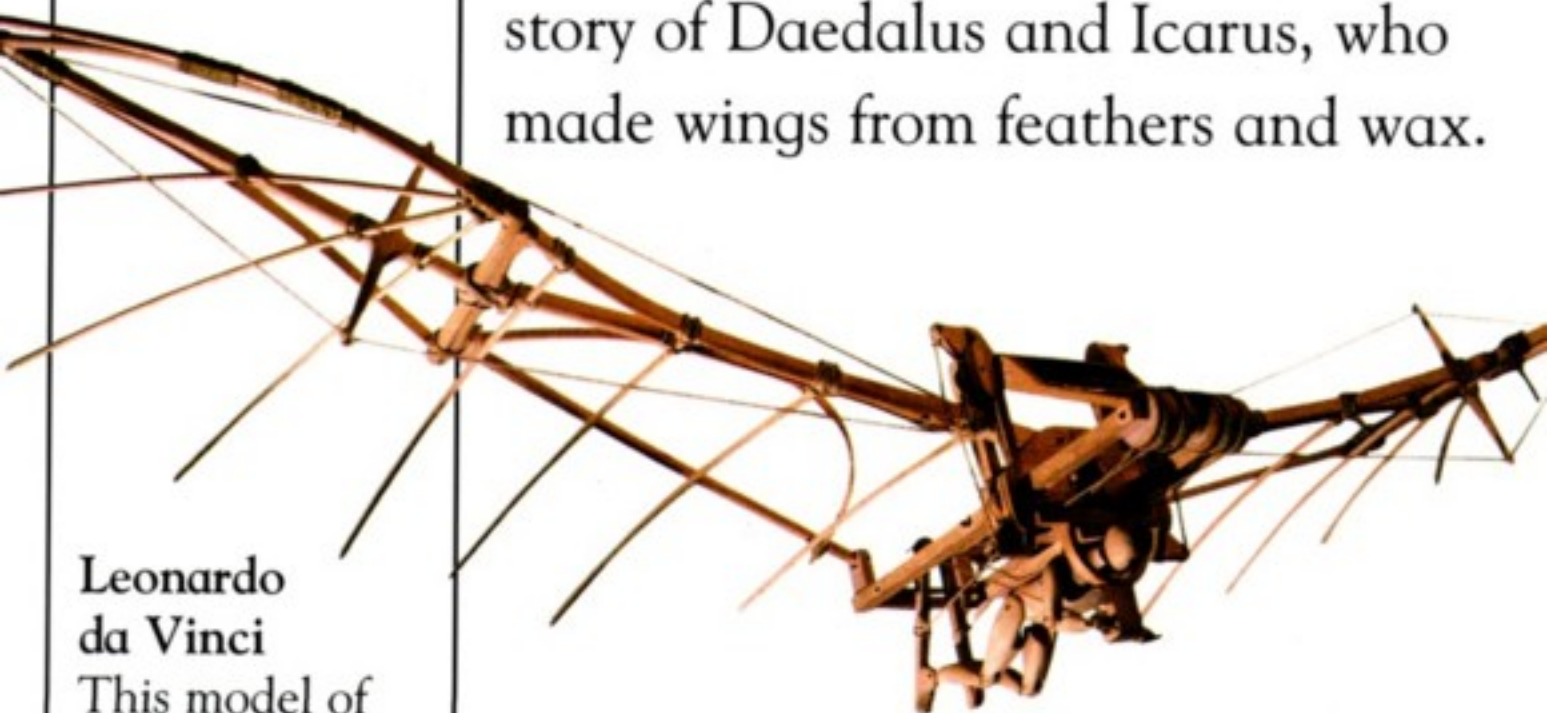
# Flying machines

Today, air travel is commonplace, thanks to the amazing invention of Wilbur and Orville Wright. But in past centuries, people could only imagine what it would be like to fly.

An ancient Greek myth tells the story of Daedalus and Icarus, who made wings from feathers and wax.

## Leonardo da Vinci

This model of an ornithopter is based on sketches by the Italian artist and scientist, Leonardo da Vinci. He thought that the flapping wings of a bird held the key to human flight.



Much later, others, such as Leonardo da Vinci, tried to invent flying machines. In the 15th century, da Vinci designed a machine with enormous flapping wings, and had ideas for a helicopter and a parachute. However, his machines would not have been able to fly.



### Woodcuts

To make a woodcut, Orville carved a picture into a block of wood. Then he dipped the wood into some ink and printed the picture onto a piece of paper.

As they grew up, the Wright brothers could often be found making things and experimenting.

Wilbur invented a machine to fold the newspapers that his father sent around the United States.

Orville loved to make and fly kites. He even made kites to sell to his friends. He was also interested in printing with woodcuts.





For the next few years, Wilbur and Orville read as much as they could about flying in books and scientific magazines. They

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On December 17th, 1903,  
Wilbur and Orville Wright changed  
our world with their first  
successful flight.



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