**Location, Location, Location**

**Wright Brothers National Memorial**

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**Location:** on-site

**Grade:** 8th Grade

**Subject:** Earth Environmental Science

**Duration:** 120 min.

**Key Vocabulary:** relative location, absolute location, latitude, longitude, climate, weather, barrier island, vegetation

**North Carolina State Standards: EEn2.2.1 ~** Explain effects of

human activity on shorelines, especially in development and artificial stabilization efforts.

**Materials:**

compasses

anemometers

personal devices

pictures and maps of Kitty Hawk in 1903

**Site Significance:**

The park is an active educational resource offering unique opportunities for visitors and educational groups to learn about the Wright’ achievement, cultural stewardship, and preservation of natural and cultural resources.

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**Objectives:** The student will be able to

a.) identify the absolute location of the Wright Brothers National Memorial Monument

b.) describe the relative location of the Wright Brothers National Memorial and why the wind and sand of the region were so important to their choice of a “first flight site”

c.) compare and contrast the relative and absolute locations of the first flight region of 1903 to the Wright Brothers National Memorial of today

d.) explain how humans have altered the barrier island in an effort to stabilize and preserve the location where the first flight took place

**Essential Question:** Wilbur and Orville lived in Dayton, Ohio. Why did they choose Kitty Hawk, North Carolina for their experiments in flight?

**Method:** Students will use technology tools to record the absolute location of the Wright Brothers National Memorial Monument

**Background:** The Wright brothers needed an environment with steady winds of approximately 15 mph, minimal rain, a soft sandy place to land or crash and minimally populated in order to limit publicity. They studied the Weather Bureau records and chose the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Kitty Hawk, in particular, provided the sustained necessary winds, lots of sand for landing and very few people, meeting their ideal conditions. The location met all of their needs.

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**Suggested Procedure**

**Pre-Visit:** Prior to visiting the Wright Brothers National Memorial, watch the following video of the Outer Banks.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CSIPgdgiecw>

Write your perception of what the Outer Banks/Kitty Hawk was like in 1903. What did it look like? What sounds might you have heard? What would it have smelled like? What might you have felt physically? Be specific and descriptive in your writing.

**On-Site:**

1. Explain how to use a compass and its importance in navigation. Point out similar tools on devices such as phones and computers. Demonstrate how latitude, longitude and elevation can be found using a personal device.

2. In groups of 3 or 4, hike to top of the Wright Brothers Monument to locate:

a.) North South East West using a compass

b.) latitude and longitude using device

c.) elevation using device

d.) sketch 2 maps of the Wright Brothers National Memorial using this information, one depicting what it might have looked like in 1903 and one as it looks today

3. Teach how to use an anemometer and why it is necessary to measure wind speed.

4. Measure the windspeed using an anemometer at the top of Big Kill Devil Hill and at the base of the Big Kill Devil Hill.

5. Record all of the above data and observations in the handout provided.

**Post-Visit:** The Wright brothers chose Kitty Hawk for its ideal conditions; wind, sand and sparse population. Compare and contrast the Wright Brothers National Memorial region of 1903 to how it appears today. Prepare a Prezi to present. Be sure to cite credible sources. (i.e.. .org, .gov, .edu, etc)

<https://prezi.com>

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**Evaluation Rubric**

<https://prezi.com/9wkutaolxkff/prezi-rubric/?webgl=0>

**Extensions:**

a.) Create a working anemometer out of household materials. Why was wind speed so important? Do they still need the same conditions today? Why or why not?

b.) Research the design of the Wright Brothers Monument and create an artistic rendition. Why was a star used in the design? What are other significant features of the design?

c.) Is Kitty Hawk still a secluded area Why or why not? Would this still be a good area for Wilbur and Orville to test their experiments? Where would be a good place today to conduct their experiments? Why?

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**Additional Resources**

**Websites:**  First Flight (Today in History)

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/dec17.html>

<https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/first-airplane-flies>

**Books:** Wind and Sand: The Story of the Wright Brothers at Kitty Hawk by Lynne Wescott and Paula Degen

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**Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Pre-Visit:**

Write your perception of what the Outer Banks/Kitty Hawk was like in 1903. What did it look like? What sounds might you have heard? What would it have smelled like? What might you have felt physically? Be specific and descriptive in your writing.

**Site-Visit:**

1. Sketch the Wright Brothers National Memorial and label N S E W.

2. Record the latitude and longitude of the monument.

3. Record the elevation of the monument at it’s base.

4. Sketch 1 (1903)

5. Sketch 2 (today)

6. Windspeed at top of the hill

7. Windspeed at bottom of the hill

8. Description of the topography (at least 6 to 8 sentences) You may use the back of the paper.