



2019

### STEM Smackdown: Who Invented the Airplane?: Wright Brothers vs. Whitehead

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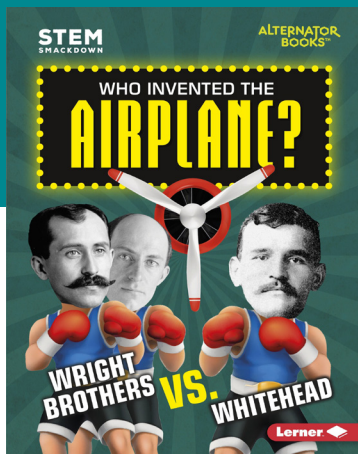
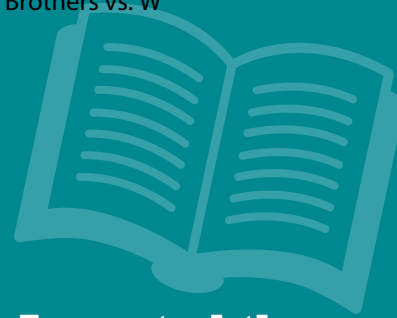
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#### BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Woodbury, Ariel (2019) "STEM Smackdown: Who Invented the Airplane?: Wright Brothers vs. Whitehead," *Children's Book and Media Review*. Vol. 40 : Iss. 2 , Article 139.

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## Book Review

# STEM Smackdown: Who Invented the Airplane?: Wright Brothers vs. Whitehead

### Author

Karen Latchana Kenney

### Illustrator

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### Reviewer

Ariel Woodbury

### Rating

Excellent

### Level

Intermediate

The Wright brothers started out developing gliders. Their first big break was the development of warped wings that allowed them to turn without unbalancing the glider. From there, they added a motor and propellers, and viola! We had the first airplane. Gustave Whitehead claimed to have flown his steam engine propelled plane a few years earlier, but the evidence for this is very slim. The Wright brothers, on the other hand, had large amounts of data and photographs of their progress. They are the clear winners!

This is an interesting little book. Some basic mechanics of flight, invention, intellectual property and historical analysis are discussed. The book follows a logical analysis of information and data and helps show the reader how credible, or not, some sources can be. Viewing historical documents through the lens of the time they were created is an important skill to learn. This is not just a good book for those interested in airplanes, but is also a great approach to history. If your child enjoys this book, they may like the other books in this series, STEM Smackdown, about other inventors and their rivals.

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### Pages

32

### Year

2018

### Publisher

Lerner Publications Company

### ISBN

9781512483185