

## DID YOU KNOW THAT?

- ★ All the Wright airplanes are covered with cotton fabric called muslin (the "plane clothes").
- ★ Many of the silver parts of the Wright airplanes are wood painted with a mixture of shellac and aluminum.
- ★ All Wright airplanes use a chainand-sprocket transmission to link the engine and the propellers.
- ★ The first powered, heavier-thanair, sustained flights with a pilot were made on December 17, 1903, by Orville and Wilbur Wright.

- ★ The 1909 Wright Military Flyer was flight tested at Fort Myer in Arlington, Virginia.
- ★ When the elevators are in front of the wings, it is called a canard configuration.
- ★ The Wright brothers' patent was for the 1902 glider, not a powered airplane.
- ★ The 1911 Wright EX *Vin Fiz* was the first to fly across the United States. It took 49 days.

Learn more about the Wright brothers on the Museum's web site,

www.nasm.si.edu/wrightbrothers



Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum

The Wright Brothers & the Invention of the Aerial Age exhibition is made possible through the generous support of Alcoa.

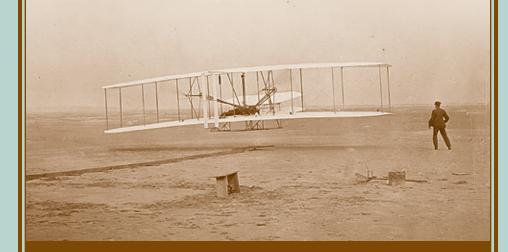
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Be a "Plane Clothes" Detective

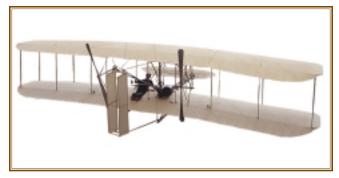
# ON THE WRIGHT BROTHERS' FLIGHT PATH



Be on the look out for

PROPELLERS ★ TAILS ★ WINGS

(But don't be surprised if the **propellers** are in the **back!**)



### 1903 WRIGHT FLYER

The Wright Brothers & the Invention of the Aerial Age Gallery 209, second floor



## 1911 WRIGHT EX 'VIN FIZ'

Pioneers of Flight Gallery 208, second floor



### 1909 WRIGHT MILITARY FLYER

Early Flight Gallery 107, first floor

# READY DETECTIVES?

Look at the Wright brothers' three airplanes. Discuss what you observe.

(Use the picture on the back page for clues.)

Record your observations on the checklist below.

How are they alike? How are they different?

|                                  | 1903<br>Wright Flyer | 1911<br>Wright EX<br>Vin Fiz | l 909<br>Wright<br>Military Flyer |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| elevators                        |                      |                              |                                   |
| pilot position                   |                      |                              |                                   |
| propeller                        |                      |                              |                                   |
| rudder                           |                      |                              |                                   |
| seats                            |                      |                              |                                   |
| tail with rudder<br>and elevator |                      |                              |                                   |
| rudder art/wing art              |                      |                              |                                   |
| wings                            |                      |                              |                                   |
| other                            |                      |                              |                                   |