Name:

Section: Date: Score:

What if wearable parachutes had worked in 1912?

A simple invention can change the world. This is what Franz Reichelt was aiming for when he jumped off the Eiffel Tower in 1912. Reichelt hoped to create a parachute for aviators so they could--if necessary--escape their aircraft midair. Jumping off the Eiffel tower would demonstrate--he thought--that his wearable parachute worked. Unfortunately, Reichelt did not survive his fall and he is now referred to as the "flying tailor"--since, well, he was a Tailor who tried to fly.

Your mission is to rewrite history as if Reichelt's leap off the Eiffel tower was successful. What happened to Reichelt after his leap of courage? Did the press turn him into a celebrity? Did his name enter the history books as a great inventor? Did his success lead to the production of more wearable parachutes? How did wearable parachutes change history? Were they used during World War I? Did wearable parachuting become a war tactic to invade foreign lands? Did capitalists use the Reichelt name to create a new clothing line of parachute-looking shirts?

Reimagine what could have been had Reichelt's jump off the Eiffel tower worked.