

Disclaimer

We hope you find the information and resources on our website useful. Please be aware that aspects of an individual's life may be controversial to some. Due to this, we highly recommend that you carefully research the individual before teaching about them to children. If your children do independent research about an individual, we advise using only pre-selected, child-appropriate sources of information and websites appropriate to their age.

Amelia Earhart



Name: Amelia Mary Earhart

Date of Birth: 24th July 1897

Place of Birth: Kansas, USA

Famous For:

Being one of the first women to fly an aeroplane across the Atlantic Ocean and setting many **aviation** world records. Amelia Earhart was an inspiration to many women. She disappeared mysteriously during an attempt to **circumnavigate** the globe and was declared lost at sea.

Early Life

Amelia Earhart came from a wealthy family. As a child, she and her sister spent a lot of time at her grandparents' spacious home. They enjoyed exploring the area and having adventures.

Earhart was ten years old when she saw her first aeroplane at a flying exhibition. The pilot swooped his aeroplane low in the sky towards

where she was stood with a friend. Earhart famously remarked afterwards that the "...little red aeroplane said something to me as it swished by."

On 3rd January 1921, Earhart took her first flying lesson. Only six months later, she bought her first (yellow) aeroplane nicknamed 'The Canary'. On 22nd October 1922, Earhart set her first women's world record by reaching an altitude of 14,000 feet.

Famous Flights

In 1928, Amelia Earhart received an unexpected phone call asking her if she wanted to be the first woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean. Even though she had a pilot's licence, the journey was considered too dangerous for a woman to fly so she had to travel as a passenger.

Did You Know...?

Amelia Earhart was given the nickname 'Lady Lindy' because people considered her to be the female equivalent of the famous stunt pilot Charles Lindbergh. Lindbergh had the nickname 'Lucky Lindy' because he survived many near-death experiences.



Afterwards, Earhart had said that she felt like baggage on the journey. The flight from Trespassey Harbor, Newfoundland (USA), to Burry Port, Wales (UK), took 20 hours and 40 minutes.

Following this famous flight, Earhart went on to pilot many solo flights and set several world records. In May 1932, she became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean. She also flew non-stop from coast to coast in the USA later that year.

Her Disappearance

In 1937, Amelia Earhart decided that she wanted to be the first woman to **circumnavigate** the globe in an aircraft. Along with her navigator, Fred Noonan, she embarked on the journey on 1st June.

By 29th June, the pair had travelled 22,000 miles and had begun their next leg: a difficult 2600-mile journey to Howland Island. The journey was long and the island was small; this made it especially difficult to locate from the sky. They communicated by radio to say that they were not far away but they were running low on fuel and unable to see the island due to dense cloud. Unfortunately, their aircraft never came into land.

A widespread search was conducted but Earhart's aeroplane was never found. Amelia Earhart and Fred Noonan were declared lost at sea. A lighthouse was later built on Howland Island in their memory.

Glossary

celestial navigation

A method of navigation using the Sun, Moon and stars.

circumnavigate

To travel all the way around something.

GPS (Global Positioning System)

Technology that uses signals from satellites to work out a location and give directions.

radar

A system that uses radio waves to sense where objects are and how fast they are moving.

satellites

Devices in space which orbit the Earth to collect information or for communication.

Did You Know...?

Modern aircraft use **GPS**, **radar** and **satellites** to help them to navigate. Such technology was not invented until many years after Amelia Earhart took to the skies.

Instead, she relied on a navigator, who used maps and **celestial navigation**, to sit next to her and guide her along the flight path.

Questions

1. In which USA state was Amelia Earhart born? Tick one.

- ☐ New York
☐ Kentucky
☐ Kansas
☐ Georgia

2. Draw **three** lines and match each event to the correct year.

1928

1921

1937

Amelia Earhart took her first flying lesson.

Amelia Earhart attempted to circumnavigate the Earth.

Amelia Earhart became the first woman to cross the Atlantic Ocean in an aeroplane.

3. Find and copy a word which means the same as 'to travel all the way around'.

4. Fill in the missing word.

Earhart was ten years old when she saw her first aeroplane at a flying _____.

5. What is the purpose of this text?

6. Why do you think that Amelia Earhart chose to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean in 1932?

7. Explain why the word **dense** is used to describe the clouds during Amelia Earhart's journey to Howland Island.

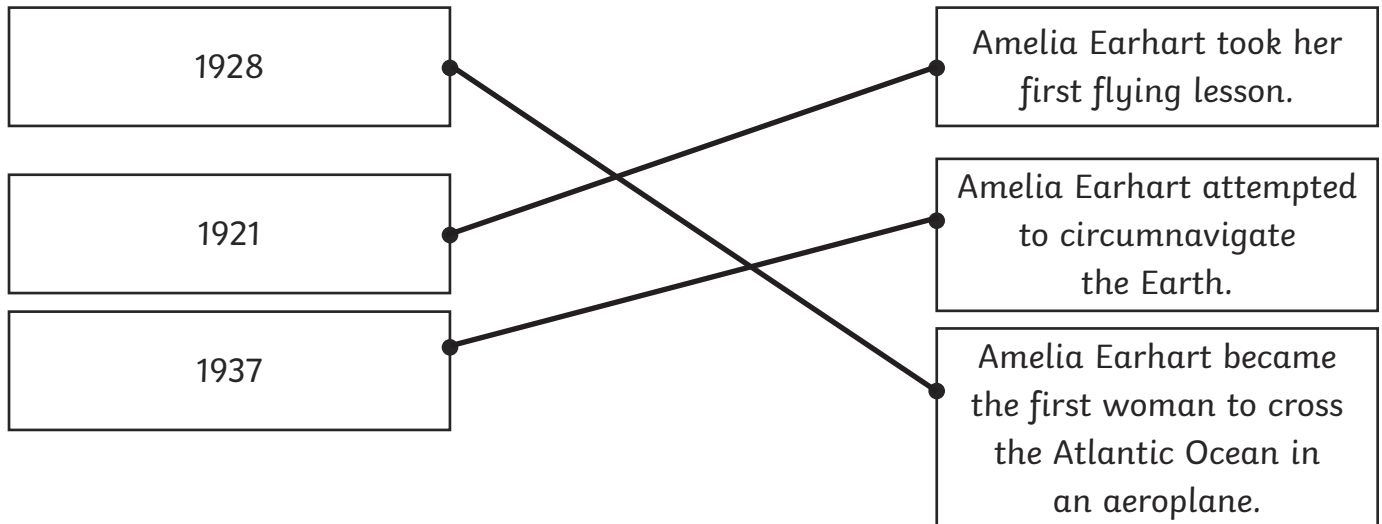
8. How has aviation changed since Amelia Earhart's adventures?

Answers

1. In which USA state was Amelia Earhart born? Tick one.

- ☐ New York
- ☐ Kentucky
- ☒ **Kansas**
- ☐ Georgia

2. Draw **three** lines and match each event to the correct year.



3. Find and copy a word which means the same as 'to travel all the way around'.

circumnavigate

4. Fill in the missing word.

Earhart was ten years old when she saw her first aeroplane at a flying **exhibition**.

5. What is the purpose of this text?

The purpose of this text is to inform the reader about Amelia Earhart.

6. Why do you think that Amelia Earhart chose to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean in 1932?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that Amelia Earhart wanted to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean in 1932 to show that women could be good pilots too. It was a challenge that she was determined to accomplish.

7. Explain why the word **dense** is used to describe the clouds during Amelia Earhart's journey to Howland Island.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that the author used the word 'dense' to describe the clouds during Amelia's journey to Howland Island to show that they were very thick and stopped Amelia and Fred from being able to see properly. This could have caused their disappearance.

8. How has aviation changed since Amelia Earhart's adventures?

Pupils' own responses, such as: Aviation has changed since Amelia Earhart's adventures because we now fly across the Atlantic Ocean and Pacific Ocean more frequently. We also have better technology to navigate aircraft.

Amelia Earhart



Name: Amelia Mary Earhart

Date of Birth: 24th July 1897

Place of Birth: Kansas, USA

Who Was She?

Amelia Earhart (also known as 'Lady Lindy') was a famous American aviatrix who was one of the first women to fly across the Atlantic Ocean. She disappeared in 1937 during an attempt to **circumnavigate** the globe. There are many different theories surrounding her mysterious disappearance.

Early Life

Amelia Earhart came from a wealthy family and spent a lot of her childhood at her grandparents' expansive home where she would undertake new adventures with her sister, such as climbing trees, hunting for rats and exploring the local neighbourhood.

When she was ten years old, Earhart and a friend attended a stunt-flying exhibition where a pilot swooped his aeroplane low in the sky towards them. Earhart famously remarked afterwards that the "...little red aeroplane said something to me as it swished by."



Learning to Fly

Amelia Earhart embarked on her first flying lesson on 3rd January 1921. Only six months later, she saved enough money to purchase her first (yellow) aeroplane nicknamed 'The Canary'. On 22nd October 1922, Earhart set her first women's world record by reaching an altitude of 14,000 feet.

An Unexpected Phone Call

In 1928, Amelia Earhart received a call asking her if she wanted to be the first woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean. She instantly agreed and was signed up as a co-pilot for the journey. Even though she had a pilot's licence, the journey was considered too dangerous for a woman to fly so she was forced to travel as a passenger.

Earhart was frustrated with not being able to fly and said she felt like baggage on the flight. They flew on 27th June from Trespassey Harbor, Newfoundland (USA), to Burry Port, Wales (UK), in 20 hours and 40 minutes.





Amelia Earhart soon became a celebrity and was given the nickname of 'Lady Lindy' due to her similarities to the famous pilot, Charles Lindbergh. Lindbergh earned the name 'Lucky Lindy' after his many near-death experiences as a stunt pilot.



Heights of Fame

On 20th May 1932, Amelia Earhart became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean. The journey took almost 15 hours from Harbour Grace, Newfoundland, to Culmore, Northern Ireland.

In 1935, she was the first person to fly across both the Atlantic Ocean and Pacific Ocean. In a space of five years, Earhart set seven new women's speed and distance flying records.

Amelia Earhart's Final Flight

In 1937, Earhart decided that she wanted to take on the challenge of being the first woman to **circumnavigate** the globe in an aircraft. They embarked on their journey on 1st June. Her navigator, Fred Noonan, guided Earhart using a combination of maps and **celestial navigation**: the most accurate methods available at the time.

By 29th June, Earhart and Noonan had covered 22,000 miles and were ready to embark on their next 2600-mile journey to Howland Island. The fateful journey was long and the island was small, making it difficult to locate from the sky. They communicated by radio to say that they were not far away but were running low on fuel and unable to see the island due to dense cloud. Communication was then lost and their aircraft never came into land. An extensive search was conducted but Earhart's aeroplane was never found.

Although there have been many theories about what happened to Earhart and Noonan, the most popular and likely theory is that her aeroplane, which was out of fuel, crashed and sank in the deep waters that are north-west of Howland Island. A lighthouse was later built on the island as a memorial to Amelia Earhart.

Glossary

celestial navigation

A method of navigation using the Sun, Moon and stars.

circumnavigate

To travel all the way around something (especially the world).

Questions

1. How old was Amelia Earhart the first time that she saw an aeroplane? Tick one.

- ☐ eight years old
- ☐ four years old
- ☐ ten years old
- ☐ five years old

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- ☐ Earhart and Noonan embarked on their journey to circumnavigate the globe.
- ☐ Amelia Earhart set a new women's altitude record of 14,000 feet.
- ☐ Amelia Earhart became the first woman to cross the Atlantic Ocean in an aircraft.
- ☐ Earhart and Noonan disappeared while travelling to Howland Island.

3. Find and copy one word which shows that Amelia Earhart's grandparents' home covered a wide area.

4. Why do you think that Amelia Earhart gave her first aeroplane the nickname 'The Canary'?

5. Name one thing that Amelia Earhart and her sister liked to do at their grandparents' home.

6. Why do you think that Amelia Earhart flew across the Atlantic Ocean again on 20th May 1932?

7. How has aviation changed since Amelia Earhart's adventures?

8. Explain why the word **dense** is used to describe the clouds during Amelia Earhart's journey to Howland Island.

9. How does the organisation of this text help us to better understand the information?

Answers

1. How old was Amelia Earhart the first time that she saw an aeroplane? Tick one.

- ☐ eight years old
- ☐ four years old
- ☒ **ten years old**
- ☐ five years old

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- 3** Earhart and Noonan embarked on their journey to circumnavigate the globe.
- 1** Amelia Earhart set a new women's altitude record of 14,000 feet.
- 2** Amelia Earhart became the first woman to cross the Atlantic Ocean in an aircraft.
- 4** Earhart and Noonan disappeared while travelling to Howland Island.

3. Find and copy one word which shows that Amelia Earhart's grandparents' home covered a wide area.

expansive

4. Why do you think that Amelia Earhart gave her first aeroplane the nickname 'The Canary'?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that Amelia Earhart named her aeroplane 'The Canary' because it was a yellow colour like a canary bird.

5. Name one thing that Amelia Earhart and her sister liked to do at their grandparents' home.

Accept one of the following: undertake new adventures; climb trees; hunt for rats; explore the local neighbourhood.

6. Why do you think that Amelia Earhart flew across the Atlantic Ocean again on 20th May 1932?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that Amelia Earhart flew across the Atlantic Ocean again on 20th May 1932 because she didn't enjoy being a passenger on the first journey; she felt like baggage. She wanted to be the first woman to fly solo over the Atlantic Ocean.

7. How has aviation changed since Amelia Earhart's adventures?

Pupils' own responses, such as: Aviation has changed since Amelia Earhart's adventures because we now fly across the Atlantic Ocean and Pacific Ocean more frequently. We have better technology to navigate aircraft and there is less bias as to whether pilots are male or female.

8. Explain why the word **dense** is used to describe the clouds during Amelia Earhart's journey to Howland Island.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that the author used the word 'dense' to describe the clouds during Amelia Earhart's journey to Howland Island to show that they were very thick and stopped Earhart and Noonan from being able to see properly. This could have caused their disappearance.

9. How does the organisation of this text help us to better understand the information?

Pupils' own responses, such as: The organisation of this text helps us to better understand the information because it is split into sub-headings. This means that it is clear what each section is about and you can find information more easily.

Amelia Earhart

Amelia Mary Earhart was an inspirational American aviatrix who is famous for being one of the first women to fly across the Atlantic Ocean. She disappeared mysteriously in 1937 during an attempt to circumnavigate the globe.



Early Life

Amelia Earhart was born on 24th July 1897, in Kansas, USA. She was born into an affluent family and spent many childhood years at her grandparents' expansive home undertaking new adventures with her sister.

At the age of ten, Earhart and a friend attended a stunt-flying exhibition where a pilot saw the pair and swooped down low towards them. She famously remarked afterwards that the "...little red aeroplane said something to me as it swished by."



Learning to Fly

Amelia Earhart embarked on her first flying lesson on 3rd January 1921. Only six months later, she saved enough money to purchase her first (yellow) aeroplane nicknamed 'The Canary'. On 22nd October 1922, Amelia Earhart set her first women's world record by reaching an altitude of 14,000 feet.

An Unexpected Phone Call

In April 1928, Amelia Earhart received a call asking her if she wanted to be the first woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean. She instantly agreed and was signed up as a co-pilot for the journey. Despite possessing a pilot's licence, Amelia Earhart was a passenger on the journey since, at that time, it was deemed too perilous for a woman to fly the route. They flew on 27th June from Trepassey Harbor, Newfoundland (USA), to Burry Port, Wales (UK), in 20 hours and 40 minutes. Earhart was frustrated with not being able to fly and commented that she felt like baggage on the flight.

Following this flight, Amelia Earhart (now a celebrity) was given the affectionate nickname 'Lady Lindy' because many considered her to be the female equivalent of the famous pilot, Charles Lindbergh. Lindbergh gained the name 'Lucky Lindy' after his many near-death experiences as a stunt pilot. Earhart also reportedly bore a strong physical resemblance to Lindbergh with her short hairstyle.



Heights of Fame

On 20th May 1932, exactly five years after Charles Lindbergh's famous solo flight, Amelia Earhart became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean. Her journey took almost 15 hours from Harbour Grace, Newfoundland, to Culmore, Northern Ireland.

Over the next few years, Earhart continued to make aviation history by setting several new records. In 1935, she made a solo trip across the Pacific Ocean from Hawaii to California. This established her as the first person to fly across both the Atlantic Ocean and Pacific Ocean. In a space of five years, between 1930 and 1935, Amelia Earhart managed to set seven new women's speed and distance aviation records.

Amelia Earhart's Final Flight

In 1937, Amelia Earhart planned the ultimate aviation challenge: she wanted to be the first woman to circumnavigate the globe in an aircraft. Earhart purchased a new aeroplane and teamed up with Fred Noonan as her navigator. Without precise modern technology, such as GPS, radio satellites or radar, Noonan guided Earhart using a combination of maps and celestial navigation (using the Sun and stars as a guide).

They set off on 1st June and covered 22,000 miles in 28 days (with a few refuelling stops). On 2nd July, the duo prepared to embark on their fateful 2600-mile journey to Howland Island; the journey was long and the island was incredibly small. Communicating by radio, Earhart and Noonan reported being close by but low on fuel and unable to see the island due to dense cloud. Their aircraft never came into land. An extensive search was conducted but Amelia Earhart's aeroplane was never found and the pair were declared lost at sea.

Theories Surrounding Her Disappearance

The fact that Amelia Earhart's aeroplane was never recovered has led to a great deal of speculation about what happened to her. The most common and plausible theory surrounding her disappearance is that her aeroplane, which was out of fuel, crashed and sank in the deep waters north-west of Howland Island.

Another theory is that the aeroplane crashed on a different island which marooned Earhart and Noonan. Other theories still circulate today.

Whatever happened to Amelia Earhart, she is still remembered for her bravery, determination and ground-breaking achievements as well as being an inspirational role model for women. As a memorial to Earhart, a lighthouse was later built on Howland Island.

Questions

1. What nickname was given to Amelia Earhart? Tick one.

- ☐ Lucky Lady
- ☐ Lady Lucky
- ☐ Lady Lindy
- ☐ Lucky Lindy

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- ☐ Earhart and Noonan embarked on their journey to circumnavigate the globe.
- ☐ Amelia Earhart set a new women's altitude record of 14,000 feet.
- ☐ Amelia Earhart became the first woman to cross the Atlantic Ocean in an aircraft.
- ☐ Earhart and Noonan disappeared while travelling to Howland Island.

3. Find and copy one word which means the same as 'height'.

4. Fill in the missing words.

In April 1928, Amelia Earhart received a call asking her if she wanted to be the first

_____ to cross the _____ Ocean.

5. List **two** methods of navigation that Fred Noonan used to guide Amelia Earhart during their final flight.

1. _____

2. _____

6. **"On 2nd July, the duo prepared to embark on their fateful 2600-mile journey to Howland Island."**

Explain why this journey is described as 'fateful'.

7. Why do you think that Amelia Earhart flew across the Atlantic Ocean again on 20th May 1932?

8. The text says that Amelia Earhart felt like **baggage** on the transatlantic journey. Discuss what you think she meant by this.

9. Amelia Earhart famously remarked that the “...**little red aeroplane said something to me as it swished by.**”

Why is this moment important in Amelia Earhart’s life?

10. How has aviation changed since Amelia Earhart’s adventures?

Answers

1. What nickname was given to Amelia Earhart? Tick one.

- ☐ Lucky Lady
- ☐ Lady Lucky
- ☒ **Lady Lindy**
- ☐ Lucky Lindy

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- 3** Earhart and Noonan embarked on their journey to circumnavigate the globe.
- 1** Amelia Earhart set a new women's altitude record of 14,000 feet.
- 2** Amelia Earhart became the first woman to cross the Atlantic Ocean in an aircraft.
- 4** Earhart and Noonan disappeared while travelling to Howland Island.

3. Find and copy one word which means the same as 'height'.

altitude

4. Fill in the missing words.

In April 1928, Amelia Earhart received a call asking her if she wanted to be the first **woman** to cross the **Atlantic** Ocean.

5. List **two** methods of navigation that Fred Noonan used to guide Amelia Earhart during their final flight.

1. maps

2. celestial navigation

6. **"On 2nd July, the duo prepared to embark on their fateful 2600-mile journey to Howland Island."**

Explain why this journey is described as 'fateful'.

Pupils' own responses, such as: The author has described the journey as 'fateful' because this was Amelia Earhart's last journey that would end in tragedy.

7. Why do you think that Amelia Earhart flew across the Atlantic Ocean again on 20th May 1932?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that Amelia Earhart flew across the Atlantic Ocean again on 20th May 1932 because she didn't enjoy being a passenger on the first journey. She wanted to be the first woman to fly solo over the Atlantic Ocean.

8. The text says that Amelia Earhart felt like **baggage** on the transatlantic journey. Discuss what you think she meant by this.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Earhart was not able to help fly the plane so may have felt useless and like an inanimate object taking up space like baggage.

9. Amelia Earhart famously remarked that the "...little red aeroplane said something to me as it swished by."

Why is this moment important in Amelia Earhart's life?

Pupils' own responses, such as: This is an important moment in Amelia Earhart's life because I think that her experience at the flying exhibition influenced her desire to become an aviatrix.

10. How has aviation changed since Amelia Earhart's adventures?

Pupils' own responses, such as: Aviation has changed since Amelia Earhart's adventures because we can now fly across the Atlantic Ocean and Pacific Ocean more frequently. We have better technology to navigate aircraft and there is less bias as to whether pilots are male or female.