

Amelia Earhart

Amelia Earhart was an American aviator. During her life, Amelia was famous for setting many aviation records. She became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic.



Early life

Amelia Mary Earhart was born on 24th July 1897, in Kansas, USA. Her parents were Amy and Edwin Earhart. She had a younger sister called Muriel. As children, Amelia and Muriel enjoyed an unusual amount of freedom. They spent their days climbing trees and building dens.

Career

After leaving school, Amelia's first job was in Canada. She worked as a nurse's aide, caring for soldiers injured in the First World War. Some of her patients were pilots and Amelia began to develop an interest in flying. Her first flight was in December 1920 and she said it was then that she knew she had to learn to fly.

The Canary

Within six months, Amelia had saved enough money to buy herself a second-hand biplane. It was a yellow two-seater aircraft, which she named 'The Canary'. She used 'The Canary' to set her first record in 1922. Amelia flew to a height of 14,000 feet, the highest altitude achieved by a woman at that time.



Breaking Records

In June 1928, she became the first woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean, alongside two male pilots. In May 1932, Amelia became the first woman to fly solo and non-stop across the Atlantic Ocean. In January 1935, she became the first person to fly solo across the Pacific Ocean.

Her final flight

In May 1937, Amelia set out to break yet another record. She wanted to be the first person to fly all the way around the world. She and her navigator – Fred Noonan – set off on their adventure on 20th May. Their journey would cover 29,000 miles and would bring them back to where they began in Oakland, USA. However, they never returned.



Amelia had set off from modern-day Papua New Guinea. She was 2600 miles from her next destination, Howland Island, a tiny island in the Pacific Ocean. The weather was poor and the plane was low on fuel. Amelia last had radio contact with a coastguard on 2nd July 1937. Repeated attempts to get in contact with her failed. Searches were conducted but no traces of the plane or its passengers were ever found. Amelia was declared dead in January 1939.

Her legacy

Throughout her life, Amelia Earhart was determined to break records and embrace challenges. She was courageous and fearless. Before she set off on her final journey, she wrote a letter to her husband. In it, she wrote:

"Please know I am quite aware of the hazards...Women must try to do things as men have tried. When they fail, their failure must be but a challenge for others."

Glossary

word	definition
aviator	A pilot
biplane	An early type of plane with two pairs of wings, one above the other.
altitude	The height of an object in relation to sea or ground level.
navigator	A person who plans the direction of a ship, aircraft or other form of transport.
destination	The place to which someone or something is going.
declared	To announce something that something is true.

Task

1. Today's task is to read the text and read it again. We're going to use this text as a focus for the week so the better you know it, the easier you'll find the tasks.
2. Use the glossary to help you to understand any unknown words. Add some extra words to the glossary if you don't know the meaning. Use a dictionary or the internet to find the definition.