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# The Life of Amelia Earhart

Amelia Earhart was born in the United States of America (USA) in 1897. She was always an adventurous child. She had lots of ambitious ideas about what to do when she grew up. But she never thought of becoming a pilot. When she was about 20 years old, she rode as a passenger in a plane. It changed her life. She was instantly hooked on flying.

Earhart took her first flying lesson in 1921. She worked hard to save up money to buy a plane. First she worked as a nursing assistant and then as a social worker. When she had enough money, she bought a bright yellow plane. She called it *Canary*.

Earhart learned a lot about flying in *Canary*. She flew to an altitude of 4,270 metres. That was a record at that time. Her next record was being the first woman to cross the Atlantic Ocean in a plane. That time, she was not allowed to pilot the plane. She was just a passenger, while two men took the controls.

Soon, being a passenger was not enough for Earhart. She wanted to fly a plane across the Atlantic herself, and she wanted to do it alone. After careful planning, in 1932 she set off from Canada to make her solo flight across the Atlantic to France. Bad weather forced her to land in Ireland, but it was still a great achievement. She had shown the world that a woman could fly a plane solo across the Atlantic.

On 12th January, 1935, Earhart went on to complete a solo flight across 2,300 miles (3,700 kilometres) of the Pacific Ocean, from Honolulu to California.

*Altitude* means how high up in the air something is.



## Flying Fact!

During her solo flight across the Pacific, Amelia often enjoyed a cup of hot chocolate!

Next, Amelia Earhart set out to tackle another challenge. She wanted to be the first woman to fly around the world. She and her co-pilot, Fred Noonan, left the USA on 1st June 1937 in a specially-built plane, the *Electra*. They travelled over 20,000 miles (32,187 kilometres). By 2nd July, the trip was almost complete. The *Electra* took off from New Guinea, an island north of Australia, in poor weather. Earhart had difficulty hearing messages through her radio. She reported that she was 'running north and south'. Then the line went silent. Those were the last words anyone ever heard from her. Experts are still trying to solve the mystery of what happened to Amelia Earhart, Fred Noonan and the *Electra*.

Amelia Earhart's achievements and bravery are still inspiring today.





Name \_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_

- 1** Mark the statements about Amelia Earhart as a child as true or false. The first one has been done for you. [2]

	True	False
She wanted to become a pilot.		✓
She was ambitious.		
She wanted to fly across the Atlantic.		
She was adventurous.		

- 2** Draw lines to match the years to the facts about Amelia Earhart. The first one has been done for you. [2]

Years	What happened to Amelia Earhart
1897	first solo flight across the Atlantic
1921	first flying lesson
1932	flew across the Pacific
1935	was born
1937	left the USA in the <i>Electra</i>

- 3** Find and copy one word in the *Flying Fact!* section that tells you Amelia flew *alone*. [1]

Swap *alone* for other words and check the sentence still makes sense.



- 4** What were the **two** jobs that Amelia Earhart did to help her save up for her first plane? [2]

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Scan the text for where it says *she worked as...*





Name \_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_

- 1 Number the list of events from Amelia Earhart's life 1-5 to put them in the right order. The first one has been done for you. [1]

She flew from Canada to Ireland.

She had flying lessons.

She set off in the *Electra* to fly around the world.

She flew across the Pacific Ocean alone.

She became the first woman to cross the Atlantic in a plane.

- 2 'She was instantly hooked on flying.'  
What does *instantly hooked* tell you about her attitude to flying? Tick **one** box. [1]

immediately gripped

☐

totally ambitious

☐

a little bit curious

☐

trained straight away

☐

- 3 According to the text, what **two** records did Amelia Earhart break before 1932? [2]

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Read the question carefully!



- 4 'Next, Amelia Earhart set out to tackle another challenge.'  
Which of the below best matches the meaning of *tackle*? [1]

dodge away from

☐

cuddle up to

☐

fight hard

☐

get to grips with

☐





Name \_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_

- 1** In this text, two of Amelia Earhart's planes are named: one is her first plane, and one is her last. Finish these sentences by adding in the names, and explaining how you know which is which. [2]

I know the \_\_\_\_\_ was her first plane because

\_\_\_\_\_.

I know the \_\_\_\_\_ was her last plane because

\_\_\_\_\_.

- 2** What problems and obstacles did Amelia Earhart face as a pilot? Use the whole text to give **three** examples. [3]

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Look for the problems she had – they are quite different from one another.



- 3** Find examples from throughout Amelia Earhart's life of her independence and determination. [3]

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 3** 'Experts are still trying to solve the mystery ...'  
Why is it still a *mystery*? [1]

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Answers: The Life of Amelia Earhart

LEVEL: Towards	
<b>P</b> Mark the statement about Amelia Earhart as a child as true or false. [2]	
<b>Answer:</b> False (given); True; False; True <i>Award one mark for two correct answers; two marks for three correct answers.</i>	
<b>Content domain reference</b>	2b
<b>Comprehension strategies</b>	Retrieving and recording information; Recall
<b>P</b> Draw lines to match the years to the facts about Amelia Earhart. [2]	
<b>Answer:</b> 1897 – was born (given) 1921 – first flying lesson 1932 – first solo flight across the Atlantic 1935 – flew across the Pacific 1937 – left the USA in the <i>Electra</i> <i>Award one mark for two or three correct answers; two marks for all four.</i>	
<b>Content domain reference</b>	2b
<b>Comprehension strategies</b>	Retrieving and recording information; Clarifying
<b>P</b> Find and copy one word in the <i>Flying Fact!</i> section that tells you Amelia flew <i>alone</i> . [1]	
<b>Answer:</b> solo	
<b>Content domain reference</b>	2a
<b>Comprehension strategies</b>	Giving meaning of words in context; Making inferences
<b>P</b> What were the <b>two</b> jobs that Amelia Earhart did to help her save up for her first plane? [2]	
<b>Answer:</b> nursing assistant; social worker	
<b>Content domain reference</b>	2b
<b>Comprehension strategies</b>	Retrieving and recording information
LEVEL: Securing	
<b>P</b> Number the list of events from Amelia Earhart's life 1-5 to put them in the right order. [1]	
<b>Answer:</b> She flew from Canada to Ireland. (3); She had flying lessons. (1) (given); She set off in the <i>Electra</i> to fly around the world. (5); She flew across the Pacific Ocean alone. (4); She became the first woman to cross the Atlantic in a plane. (2)	
<b>Content domain reference</b>	2c
<b>Comprehension strategies</b>	Retrieving and recording information; Summarising
<b>P</b> What does <i>instantly hooked</i> tell you about her attitude to flying? Tick <b>one</b> box. [1]	
<b>Answer:</b> immediately gripped	
<b>Content domain reference</b>	2a
<b>Comprehension strategies</b>	Giving meaning of words in context; Clarifying
<b>P</b> According to the text, what <b>two</b> records did Amelia Earhart break before 1932? [2]	
<b>Answer:</b> flew to an altitude of 4,270 metres; first woman to cross Atlantic in a plane	
<b>Content domain reference</b>	2b
<b>Comprehension strategies</b>	Clarifying; Retrieving and recording information

⚡ Which of the below best matches the meaning of <i>tackle</i> ? [1]	
<b>Answer:</b> get to grips with	
<b>Content domain reference</b>	2a
<b>Comprehension strategies</b>	Giving meaning of words in context; Making inferences
<b>LEVEL: Deeper</b>	
📖 In this text, two of Amelia Earhart's planes are named: one is her first plane, and one is her last. Finish these sentences by adding in the names, and explaining how you know which is which. [2]	
<b>Answer:</b> Award one mark for: <i>Canary</i> – she saved her money to buy it.; She learned a lot about flying in it.; She bought it shortly after her first flying lesson. Award one mark for: <i>Electra</i> – She was in it when she disappeared.	
<b>Content domain reference</b>	2h
<b>Comprehension strategies</b>	Making comparisons within the text; Making connections
🔍 What problems and obstacles did Amelia Earhart face as a pilot? Use the whole text to give <b>three</b> examples. [3]	
<b>Answer:</b> Award one mark for each answer similar to: She had to save and buy her first plane.; She wasn't allowed to fly across the Atlantic because she was a woman.; She experienced bad weather (when trying to break records).	
<b>Content domain reference</b>	2c
<b>Comprehension strategies</b>	Summarising; Retrieving and recording information
🔍 Find examples from throughout Amelia Earhart's life of her independence and determination. [3]	
<b>Answer:</b> Award one mark for each answer similar to: She worked and saved for her first plane.; She set flying records.; being a passenger was not enough – wanted to fly herself; She wanted to do it alone.; She attempted to be the first woman to fly around the world – and almost made it.	
<b>Content domain reference</b>	2b/d
<b>Comprehension strategies</b>	Making inferences; Retrieving and recording information
🔍 'Experts are still trying to solve the mystery ...' Why is it still a mystery? [1]	
<b>Answer:</b> Award one mark for answers similar to: She was never seen again.; Her radio just went silent and there was no explanation.; No one has found her or her plane.	
<b>Content domain reference</b>	2b/d
<b>Comprehension strategies</b>	Making inferences; Clarifying





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