

- Using patterns that are available on the Internet or in hobby books, ask students to construct paper airplanes for test flights in your class. Encourage students to make changes to their airplanes after their initial trial flight tests. Challenge students to build an airplane that is capable of the longest flight.
- Neta Snook was one of the first female pilots in the world and in 1921 began teaching Amelia Earhart how to fly an airplane. Ask students to think of skills they can do well and discuss how they learned to do them. Did they learn these special abilities on their own or did a teacher or parent help? Students may be asked to demonstrate and teach their skills to other students in class.
- Amelia Earhart was the first president of an organization called the Ninety-Nines, an international group of licensed women pilots. Ask students to research the history of the Ninety-Nines, and to write short biographies on one of the founding members of this famous group. Information on some notable members of the Ninety-Nines can be found here: www.ameliaearhartmuseum.org/pres1.htm

Suggested Internet Resources

Periodically, Internet Resources are updated on our Web site at www.LibraryVideo.com

- www.ameliaearhartmuseum.org
The Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum contains a wealth of information on Earhart, and provides both teachers and students with links to other notable women from the history of aviation.
- www.kidscastle.si.edu/channels/air-space/air-space.html
Smithsonian Magazine presents Kids Castle Air and Space, a student-centered site that introduces young people to the history of aviation.
- www.americaslibrary.gov/cgi-bin/page.cgi/aa/earhart
The Library of Congress provides students with short summaries and photographs of several of Amelia Earhart's famous adventures.

Suggested Print Resources

- Adler, David. *A Picture Book of Amelia Earhart*. Holiday House, New York, NY; 1998.
- Munoz Ryan, Pam. *Amelia and Eleanor Go for a Ride*. Scholastic Press, New York, NY; 1999. This partly fictional account is based on a true story of an adventure that Amelia Earhart and Eleanor Roosevelt shared in 1933.
- Wickham, Martha. *Mysterious Journey*. Soundprints, Norwalk, CT; 1997.



AMELIA EARHART

Grades K-4

This guide is a supplement designed for teachers to use when presenting this program. The guide provides you with a brief historical overview, previewing and follow-up discussion questions, vocabulary, focus questions for assessing comprehension, extension activities and print and Internet resources.

Before Viewing: Give students an introduction to the topic by relaying aspects of the program overview to them. Select pre-viewing discussion questions and vocabulary to provide a focus for students when they view the program.

After Viewing: Review the program and vocabulary, and use the follow-up questions and activities to inspire continued discussion. Encourage students to research the topic further with the Internet and print resources provided.

TEACHER'S GUIDE CONSULTANT

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Historical Overview

Despite growing up in an era in which young girls were expected to be prim and proper, and living in a culture that offered limited opportunities for women, Amelia Earhart became a world famous airplane pilot. In addition, Earhart often spoke out about equal rights for women and helped bring attention to this cause through her daring and courageous adventures.

Flying in Earhart's day was nothing like it is today. Planes today use the latest in radio, radar and weather-tracking technologies, but Earhart often only had the use of a few compass-like instruments to guide her and she had little knowledge of potentially life-threatening storms. Although she faced many obstacles, Earhart set numerous aviation records, doing things no one else had ever done before! She was the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean, the first woman to fly non-stop across the United States and the first person to ever fly from Hawaii to California. Earhart's exploits made her one of the most respected and admired celebrities in the world.

Earhart's disappearance near Howland Island in the Pacific Ocean during her record-breaking attempt to fly around the world has left people wondering to this day about what really happened to her. Despite her tragic loss, she is remembered for her strength and tremendous determination in proving that in the field of aviation, there is room for both men and women to make history.

Vocabulary

Pike's Peak — An over 14,000-foot mountain in the Rocky Mountains in Colorado, named after explorer Zebulon Pike.

World War I — A war fought from 1914 through 1918 that involved many countries of the world.

cockpit — The small compartment in a vehicle like an airplane where the pilot operates the craft.

propeller — A device on the front part of an airplane that spins, helping it go forward. Propellers can also be found on boats.

social worker — A person whose job is to help other people by addressing problems such as unemployment, poverty and hunger.

immigrant — A person who leaves his or her home country to travel to and live in another country.

Spirit of St. Louis — The airplane that Charles Lindbergh used in 1927 to become the first person to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean.

Friendship Flight — A famous 1928 flight in which Amelia Earhart, as a passenger, became the first woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean.

radar — A safety device that helps people, especially airplane pilots, locate objects that are far away.

compass — A tool that helps travelers and explorers determine the direction they are traveling.

altimeter — An instrument that measures altitude, or how far someone or something is off the ground.

zeppelin — A large gas-filled airship that was used as transportation during the early part of the 20th century.

Space Shuttle — A rocket-launched space vehicle that was first used by NASA in 1981.

navigator — A person who helps the pilot of a plane or captain of a ship travel in the right direction.

Howland Island — A tiny island in the Pacific Ocean, approximately 1,600 miles southwest of Honolulu, Hawaii. The island is where Amelia Earhart was scheduled to land on her around-the-world flight in 1937.

Coast Guard — A military or naval force whose responsibility is to help keep boats and shipping lanes safe.

Pre-viewing Discussion

- Ask students if they have ever flown in an airplane, and if so, to describe their feelings about what it was like to fly. Were they thrilled? Scared? What was it like to see the ground from the sky? Where did they go on their trips? How long did it take to get there?
- Ask students to list the qualities and characteristics of a hero, and to name some of their own personal heroes. What makes the people they picked heroes?
- Students may be asked to define courage in their own words. What does it mean when we say someone is courageous? Ask students to think of people they know who are courageous or to think of examples of courageous acts and describe them to the class.

Focus Questions

1. How were Amelia Earhart and her sister raised differently from other girls?
2. Why did the Earhart family move around so much?
3. When did Earhart first become interested in flying?
4. What is an air circus?
5. What is the biggest difference between flying today and flying in Earhart's time?
6. Why is Charles Lindbergh famous in aviation history?
7. Why didn't Earhart think she deserved attention after her Friendship Flight?
8. What did Earhart do to help in the fight for women's rights?
9. What difficulties did Earhart face in her solo flight across the Atlantic?
10. What was the most dangerous part of Earhart's flight around the world?
11. Why is Earhart's disappearance such a mystery?

Discussion Questions

- Amelia Earhart was an amazing adventurer who at one point was asked by her friends to settle down and stop living so dangerously. Why do students think Earhart chose to attempt her often-risky flights? Why do they think she was so determined to fly such great distances?
- Thousands of people fly to various destinations around the world every day, but before the 1930s, there were very few commercial airline passengers. Ask students to consider how the first people to fly as passengers on airplanes might have felt. Students may also be asked to discuss how our lives would be different if we couldn't fly in airplanes. How would people travel to faraway places?
- After her Friendship Flight in 1928, Amelia Earhart commented that she "felt like a sack of potatoes." Using their knowledge of Earhart's personality, ask students to discuss why she might have been less than enthusiastic about being the first woman to fly in an airplane across the Atlantic Ocean.
- Using her status as a famous pilot and celebrity, Amelia Earhart often spoke out about controversial issues—most of all about discrimination against women. Ask students to think of some famous people who work to help others today, and to discuss what social problems students would like to try and change.

Follow-up Activities

- Ask students to choose one of Amelia Earhart's several record-breaking flights and to write congratulatory letters to her that reflect their understanding of what Earhart accomplished. As a follow-up, ask students to write journal entries that describe personal achievements or goals they would like to reach someday and explain how they plan to meet those goals.
- Divide students into small groups and ask each group to research other notable men and women from the history of aviation. Each group may choose a famous person involved in flight and write a brief biography to share with the class. Students may choose from people such as: Leonardo da Vinci, the Montgolfier Brothers, the Wright Brothers and Charles Lindbergh.
- Present your class with Amelia Earhart's itinerary for her final adventure and ask students to identify and mark the various places Earhart stopped to visit and refuel on a world map. Students may also be asked to draw a line on their map to show the route Earhart took on her trip. A map of the route of her final flight can be found at: www2.worldbook.com/features/features.asp?feature=aviators&page=html/av3.htm&direct=yes
- Show students photographs of aerial views from airplanes and satellites, and encourage them to imagine what it would have been like for the first people to see the Earth's landscape from above in balloons and airplanes. Ask students to sketch aerial views of familiar places, such as their houses or neighborhoods.

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