



## Amelia Takes Flight



photo courtesy NASA

Have you ever dreamed of piloting an airplane? As a young woman in the early 1900s, Amelia Earhart's imagination was captured by flying. At the time, airplanes were new, and only men were pilots.

Earhart's dreams of flying eventually took her almost all the way around the world. But on July 2, 1937, as she neared the end of a historic journey, her plane disappeared. She was never found.

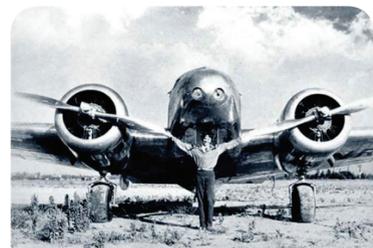
The Mini Page looks back at Earhart's adventurous life and her final flight, which ended 80 years ago.

### A young girl takes off

Amelia Earhart was born on July 24, 1897, at her grandparents' house in Atchison, Kansas. Her dad, Edwin, traveled as part of his job as a lawyer for a railroad. Her mom, Amy, often went with him.

During the school year, Amelia and her sister, Muriel, lived with their grandparents. They sometimes traveled with their parents during the summer.

The girls played tennis, basketball and football, and fished. At that time, most little girls did not do those kinds of things. Amelia's mother made bloomers, a kind of loose pants, for the girls to play in. Girls back then usually wore long skirts, even when playing.



Amelia Earhart with the plane she piloted on her last journey, the Lockheed Model 10 Electra.

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### Mini Quote:

"I want to do it because I want to do it. Women must try to do things as men have tried."

When she was 8 years old, Amelia built a roller coaster that ran off the side of the barn, and it worked. She said it was "just like flying."

### Really flying

After World War I, Amelia went with her dad to an air meet (a demonstration of plane races, wing-walking and stunt flying) in California. She took her first ride in an airplane the next day.



Amelia Earhart

Soon she was taking flying lessons with Neta Snook, the only female pilot in Southern California. Before the year was out, she had bought a plane.

### Setting records

From then on, Amelia Earhart kept busy setting records and coming up with new challenges as a pilot. She set more than a dozen flying records, including:

- She was the first woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean alone.
- She was the first woman to fly nonstop across the United States.
- She was the first person to fly alone from Hawaii to the U.S. mainland.

### Around the world

In 1936, Amelia and her husband, George Putnam, began planning her around-the-world trip. In May 1937, she and her navigator, Fred Noonan, set out to be the first people to fly around the world at the equator.



photo courtesy National Archives

Others had flown shorter northern routes.

Over the course of their journey, the duo faced bad weather and equipment challenges. They visited four continents and many countries along their route.

On the morning of July 2, 1937, they left Lae, New Guinea, and flew toward tiny Howland Island in the Pacific Ocean, southwest of Hawaii. The island was just a half-mile wide and two miles long. It was difficult to see in the vast ocean.

At about 7:30 the next morning, a U.S. Coast Guard ship waiting near Howland heard Amelia over the radio: "We must be on you, but cannot see you. Gas is running low." An hour later, the ship received its last transmission from the plane.

### Still searching

For eight decades, the search has continued for Amelia Earhart and Fred Noonan. People have many ideas about what happened to them. But no one knows for sure.

### Resources



#### On the Web:

- [ameliaearhartmuseum.org](http://ameliaearhartmuseum.org)
- [bit.ly/MPAmelia](http://bit.ly/MPAmelia)

#### At the library:

- "Amelia Lost: The Life and Disappearance of Amelia Earhart" by Candace Fleming

## Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of Amelia Earhart are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



AIRPLANE, AMELIA,  
ATCHISON, BLOOMERS,  
DEMONSTRATION,  
DISAPPEARED,  
EARHART, EQUATOR,  
FLY, HOWLAND, ISLAND,  
JOURNEY, LESSONS,  
NOONAN, PILOT, PUTNAM,  
RADIO, RECORDS,  
SEARCH.

A S R E M O O L B K N A P D A  
I Y E N R U O J V S O I I T Y  
L H C R A E S Z M N O R L R D  
E N O S I H C T A O N P O A N  
M S D R O C E R V S A L T H A  
A M A N T U P N O S N A N R L  
D I S A P P E A R E D N Z A S  
E Q U A T O R J Y L F E W E I  
N D E M O N S T R A T I O N L  
H O W L A N D J O I D A R S T

## Cook's Corner

### Divine Deviled Eggs

#### You'll need:

- 6 hard-boiled eggs
- 1/2 teaspoon dry mustard
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- paprika

#### What to do:

1. Remove shells from eggs. Carefully cut eggs in half. Scoop out yolks and put into a small bowl.
2. Add dry mustard and mayonnaise to yolks. Mix well.
3. Fill egg whites with equal amounts of yolk mixture.
4. Sprinkle a little paprika on each egg. Refrigerate until ready to serve. Serves 6.



\* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

## Puzzling

Unscramble the words below that remind us of air travel.



kticet \_\_\_\_\_  
gegaulg \_\_\_\_\_  
raorpit \_\_\_\_\_  
turesciy \_\_\_\_\_

Answers: ticket, luggage, airport, security.

## Mini Jokes



**Amy:** What is the richest kind of air?  
**Alvin:** A billion-aire!

## Eco Note



Why is temperature a big deal? The global average temperature combines the temperatures of all the hot places, all the cold places and all the places in between. A rise of just 1 degree where you live has little effect. But over the whole Earth, a rise of 1 degree makes a big difference. Just think: Normally, water at 32 degrees is solid ice. But water at 33 degrees is liquid water. Even a small rise in Earth's global temperature means melting ice at the North and South poles. It means rising seas. It means flooding in some places and drought in others.

Adapted from NASA.gov

## For later:

Using the internet, research archived newspaper stories about the disappearance and search for Amelia Earhart and Fred Noonan.

## Teachers:

For standards-based activities to accompany this feature, visit: [bit.ly/MPstandards](http://bit.ly/MPstandards)

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