

# Unit 7

## Pioneer Woman of the Sky

By 1931, Amelia Earhart had been working for several years on a secret plan. She wanted to make a solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean. Earhart had already set a Women's World Record in the 1920s. She had risen to an altitude of 14,000 feet in her yellow biplane, called *Canary*. She also came in third place in the Cleveland Women's Air Derby.

Earhart began her solo journey across the Atlantic on May 20, 1932. Her flight left from Harbor Grace, Newfoundland and was scheduled to end in Paris. However, strong winds, icy conditions, and mechanical problems had slowed her progress throughout the flight.

Lightning ripped through the blackness over the mid-Atlantic Ocean. Her small plane's engine sputtered. Sitting at the controls, Earhart knew she was too far out to turn back. Carefully, she coaxed the plane ahead through the stormy night. She never lost her determination to reach land.

When dawn came, the plane's engine was failing seriously. Just ahead lay the Irish coast. As the engine began to sputter, Earhart maneuvered her plane toward land. She brought down the craft safely in a cow pasture near Londonderry, Ireland. The surprised farmer ran over as the young woman climbed out of the airplane. "I'm from America," she said. "My name is Amelia Earhart." She had become the first woman ever to fly across the Atlantic alone. During this flight she set a new speed record—only 13 hours and 30 minutes!

Many people had told Amelia Earhart not to make this flight. They didn't think a woman was strong enough to keep going through the long night. Now, suddenly, she had become famous. When she returned to the United States, she received several awards. President Herbert Hoover presented Earhart with a gold medal from the National Geographic Society. Congress awarded her the Distinguished Flying Cross. It was the first time a woman had received that award.

Earhart felt that her flight had proved what she had already known. Now others might be able to see that men and women were equal in "jobs requiring intelligence, coordination, speed, coolness, and willpower."

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1. Amelia Earhart broke a women's World Record in her  
(A) orange biplane. (B) yellow biplane.  
(C) yellow jet. (D) orange car.

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2. Earhart made a solo journey across the  
(A) Indian Ocean. (B) Pacific Ocean.  
(C) Atlantic Ocean. (D) Mediterranean Sea.

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3. Her solo flight began in  
(A) Newfoundland. (B) Paris.  
(C) Ireland. (D) Cleveland.

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4. The progress of Earhart's flight was slowed by  
(A) a cow. (B) the ocean.  
(C) lack of sleep. (D) strong winds.

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5. She landed her airplane in  
(A) Paris. (B) a cow pasture.  
(C) the Atlantic. (D) Newfoundland.

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6. Earhart was the first woman to cross the Atlantic  
(A) alone. (B) in a plane.  
(C) in a boat. (D) with a copilot.

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7. She set a new speed record of just over  
(A) six hours. (B) 13 hours.  
(C) 20 hours. (D) 50 hours.

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8. Many people doubted that Amelia Earhart would be able to  
(A) fly the plane. (B) land the plane.  
(C) make the flight. (D) buy a plane.

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9. Her solo flight made Earhart  
(A) angry. (B) captain.  
(C) shy. (D) famous.

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10. She felt that her flight proved men and women were

- (A) different. (B) equal.  
(C) specific. (D) unusual.