

Grade 8
Reading Autobiography
Autobiography of Amelia Earhart: Flying Against the Wind

Amelia Earhart, born on July 24, 1897, in Atchison, Kansas, was an aviation pioneer and one of the most renowned women in early 20th-century America. Known for her record-breaking flights and unyielding spirit, her story continues to inspire many even today.

As a child, Amelia was always fascinated by tales of adventurers. She saw her first aircraft at a state fair when she was ten years old. While most kids were enthralled, Amelia thought it was "a thing of rusty wire and wood." Little did she know that she would fall in love with flying a decade later.

It wasn't until 1920 that Amelia took her first flight. That 10-minute flight changed her life. She recalled, "By the time I had got two or three hundred feet off the ground, I knew I had to fly." Just a few years later, she became the 16th woman in the United States to be issued a pilot's license.

In 1928, Amelia gained international fame when she became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean. Braving turbulent winds and mechanical issues, she showcased her determination and skill. This feat not only made headlines but also earned her the U.S. Distinguished Flying Cross.

Despite her successes, Amelia faced challenges. The 1930s were a time of financial depression, and she had to work multiple jobs to finance her passion. She became an author, detailing her adventures in books and articles. Amelia also promoted the importance of aviation and the role of women in the field.

Amelia's final flight in 1937 was an attempt to circumnavigate the globe. Tragically, she and her navigator, Fred Noonan, disappeared over the Pacific Ocean and were never found. Her mysterious disappearance has spurred various theories and speculation, but her legacy as a pioneering aviator remains unshaken.

Amelia Earhart once said, "The most effective way to do it is to do it." Her life embodied this philosophy, as she continuously broke barriers, defying the odds stacked against her, and flying against the wind.

Multiple Choice Questions

1. When was Amelia Earhart born?
 - a. 1907
 - b. 1897
 - c. 1917
 - d. 1887

2. Where did Amelia first see an aircraft?
 - a. At an airport
 - b. At her school
 - c. At a state fair
 - d. At a friend's house

3. When did Amelia take her first flight?
 - a. 1907
 - b. 1920
 - c. 1928
 - d. 1937

4. What did Amelia earn after her solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean?

- a. A gold medal
- b. U.S. Distinguished Flying Cross
- c. An international pilot's license
- d. The Nobel Peace Prize

5. How did Amelia finance her passion during the 1930s?

- a. By teaching
- b. By working in a factory
- c. By writing books and articles
- d. By performing airshows

6. Who accompanied Amelia on her final flight?

- a. Her brother
- b. Her husband
- c. Fred Noonan
- d. No one

7. What was the goal of Amelia's final flight?

- a. To set a speed record
- b. To circumnavigate the globe
- c. To reach a new altitude
- d. To fly nonstop to Australia

8. What happened during Amelia's last flight?

- a. She set a new world record
- b. She landed safely in Australia
- c. She retired from flying
- d. She disappeared over the Pacific Ocean

9. Which quote is attributed to Amelia Earhart?

- a. "Sky is the limit."
- b. "The most effective way to do it is to do it."
- c. "Fly high and touch the sky."
- d. "The world is a book."

10. Which word best describes Amelia's spirit?

- a. Reluctant
- b. Uncertain
- c. Unyielding
- d. Reserved

Answers and Explanations:

1. B. 1897

The passage mentions Amelia was born on July 24, 1897

2. C. At a state fair

Amelia saw her first aircraft at a state fair when she was ten.

3. B. 1920

Amelia took her first flight in 1920.

4. B. U.S. Distinguished Flying Cross

She earned the U.S. Distinguished Flying Cross for her achievement.

5. C. By writing books and articles

Amelia financed her passion by becoming an author.

6. C. Fred Noonan

Fred Noonan was her navigator for her last flight.

7. B. To circumnavigate the globe

Her final flight in 1937 was an attempt to fly around the world.

8. D. She disappeared over the Pacific Ocean

Amelia and her navigator disappeared over the Pacific during her last flight.

9. B. "The most effective way to do it is to do it."

This quote was mentioned at the end of the passage as one said by Amelia.

10. C. Unyielding

The passage describes Amelia's spirit as unyielding due to her determination and achievements.