

Directions

Read this article. Then answer questions 13 through 18.

Around the World

by Paula Morrow

- 1 “No one but a man can do this,” the business manager of the *World*, a New York newspaper, said to the young woman. The year was 1888. A popular book at the time told about a character who traveled around the world in 80 days. Now Nellie Bly, a young reporter for the newspaper, wanted to do it in real life.
- 2 “Very well,” said Nellie. “Start the man, and I’ll start the same day for some other newspaper and beat him.”
- 3 In those days it was very unusual for a woman to travel alone. But Nellie Bly was an unusual woman. Her real name was Elizabeth Jane Cochran. When she was 20, she wrote a fiery letter to the editor of the *Pittsburgh Dispatch*. The editor was so impressed with her letter that he offered her a job as a writer.
- 4 It wasn’t considered “proper” to use a woman’s name in a newspaper. So the editor signed Elizabeth’s work *Nellie Bly*, a name from a popular song.
- 5 Back then, women were only supposed to write about things considered to be “women’s topics,” such as fashion and society. But Nellie had other ideas. She reported on issues that were important, even controversial. Newspaper readers were fascinated—but they didn’t believe that Nellie Bly was really a woman. They thought men were writing the articles!

controversial = a topic that causes an argument

- 6 After Nellie threatened to make the trip for another newspaper, her editor gave in and allowed her to do it for the *World*. One year after asking to do the trip, Nellie set out. Traveling east across the Atlantic, Nellie took just one bag in order to move quickly. As she traveled, she wrote. She telegraphed her articles about people and places to the newspaper. Schoolchildren followed her route across Europe and Asia. Geography became a national fad as readers tracked her around the world.

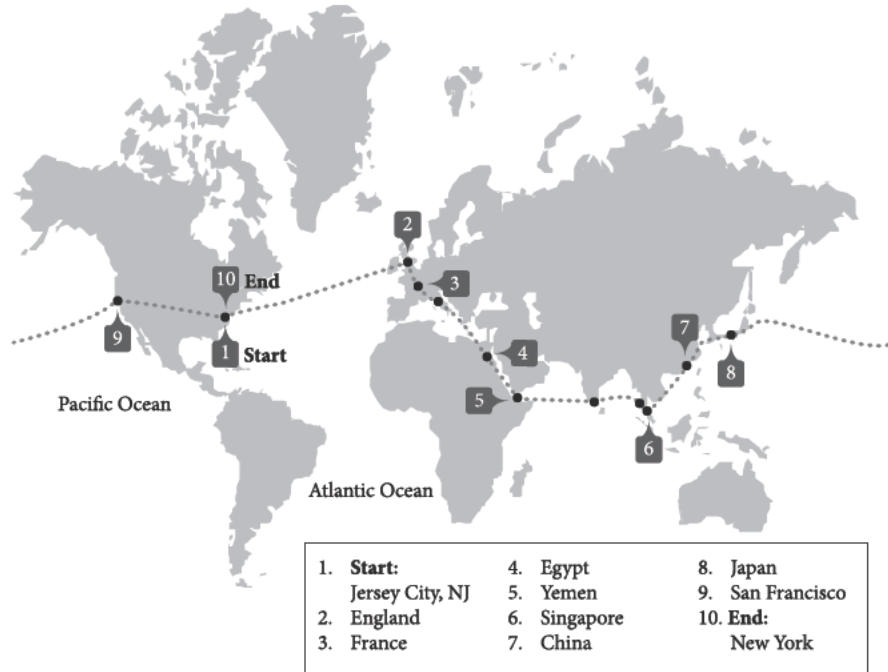
telegraphed = a way to send messages to a faraway place

- 7 On day 68 of her trip, Nellie reached San Francisco. Quickly, she dashed across the country on a train hired by her newspaper. She reached New York in 4½ days.
- 8 She met her challenge! Along the way, every train stop was a “maze of happy greetings, happy wishes, congratulating telegrams, fruit, flowers, loud cheers, wild hurrahs, rapid hand-shaking,” she wrote. While traveling through France, Nellie was thrilled to meet Jules Verne, author of the book that inspired her trip, *Around the World in 80 Days*.
- 9 Nellie Bly beat the 80-day goal. She also invented a new style of journalism. She reported to her readers what she saw, thought, and felt during her adventure. She also proved that a woman is as competent and resourceful as a man. Her journey around the world was a journey toward equal opportunity for both women and men.

competent = capable

resourceful = skilled at solving problems

Nellie Bly's Historic 1888 Trip Around the World in 72 Days



13 What does the phrase “set out” mean as it is used in paragraph 6 of the article?

- A grabbed her suitcase
- B began her journey**
- C accepted work
- D started writing

14 Read this sentence from paragraph 6.

Traveling east across the Atlantic, Nellie took just one bag in order to move quickly.

How is this detail important to paragraph 1?

- A It shows how she is the same as the character in the book.
- B It shows one way to help her reach her goal.**
- C It shows a young reporter exploring the world in real life.
- D It shows that a young woman taking a trip alone is unusual.

15 How does the author organize the information in paragraphs 6 and 7?

- A by listing events in the order they happened**
- B by comparing and contrasting the places Nellie visited
- C by showing what caused Nellie to want to take the trip
- D by stating how the problem of traveling so far was solved

GO ON

16 What does the word “journalism” mean as it is used in paragraph 9?

- ☒ A writing for newspapers
- B traveling for women
- C finding adventures
- D discovering opinions

17 Which detail from the article does the map support?

- A “Start the man, and I’ll start the same day . . .” (paragraph 2)
- B “She reached New York in 4½ days.” (paragraph 7)
- ☒ C “She met her challenge!” (paragraph 8)
- D “She reported to her readers what she saw, thought, and felt . . .” (paragraph 9)

18 Which sentence **best** states the main idea of “Around the World”?

- A Traveling around the world in a short period of time is a difficult goal.
- B It was unusual for a woman to travel in the past.
- C Geography is an important subject to study.
- ☒ D A woman showed she can do anything.