

Amelia Earhart

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Promoting Geographic Knowledge Through Literature Workshop
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Preview of Main Ideas

Amelia Earhart was the first female to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean in 1932. In 1937 she attempted a trip to navigate around the world. In reading a biography and an excerpt from her autobiography, we can trace her routes using the geographical themes of movement, place, regions and location.

Connection with the Curriculum

This activity may be used with Language Arts and Social Studies classes.

Teaching level: Grades 4-7

Objectives: The students will read a biography, an autobiography of Amelia Earhart, keep a flight journal of her experience, and trace her flights on a world map.

Connection to National Geographic Standard

Essential Element: Spatial Terms

Standard #1 How to use a map to report information from a spatial perspective.

Essential Element: Human Systems

Standard # 9 The characteristics and migration of human populations on Earth's surface.

Materials

Sky Pioneer. A Photobiography of Amelia Earhart by Corinne Szabo National Geographic Society 1997 ISBN079223737 4

The Fun of It Autobiography by Amelia Earhart. (McDougal-Littell 6th grade textbook Language and Literature 2001) Brewer, Warren,Putnam 1932

World map

Colored pencils

Spiral theme book for Reading Notebook/ “flight logs”

A Bag for storage for “In the Bag” activity

Suggestions for Teaching the Lesson

Preview (To activate prior knowledge)

1.Think-Pair-Share

In their Reading notebooks, students will write for one minute, recording all they know about airplanes and Amelia Earhart. Students then pair with a partner and share orally what they wrote.

2. Read aloud to the class from the beginning of the biography Sky Pioneer- her birth, schooling, family. As you read, use the bag to pull out previously stored items recalling her early life such as:

*birth certificate facsimile(She was born 6/24 1897, *a train(her father worked for the RR),

*Red Cross (Amelia was a nurse’s aide in WWI)

*miniature airplane (She bought her own in 1922) *compass *flight goggles

*Pilot License (She earned it in 1923)

*convertible HotWheel car (She owned a yellow Kissel nicknamed The Yellow Peril)

*Wedding cake (photo or BARBIE plastic cake)

Amelia married George Putnam in 1931.

Ask students if they had written any of those facts

Developing

1. Students will now silently read an excerpt from her autobiography The Fun of It. Instruct students to keep a “flight log”, as all pilots do, recalling the sequence of events of her solo flight in 1932. They should also record specific problems Amelia encounters,

and any solutions she utilizes. The altimeter, the instrument that records height above the ground, breaks. Ice forms on the wing. Storms, fog, and an exhaust fire occur.

2. In a class discussion, the students will share what they recorded in the flight log. How did she solve the ice problem? Why did she land in Ireland?

3. Also, discuss character traits that would describe Amelia.

Also, other items in the bag could be: a newspaper with the headline LADY LINDY Success

*A medal (awarded by Pres. Hoover)

4. On a World map use a colored pencil to trace her route from Newfoundland to Ireland. (She landed off course: suppose to land in Wales) Make a key to denote 1932. This was a shorter route. To show a circular air flight, place a rubber band around a globe to show the natural curvature.

Concluding

1. Now finish the photobiography recalling her final trip—the attempt to fly around the world.

2. Stop often to discuss the photos of her encounters with different cultures: Ireland pg. 34, Mexico pg. 41, Africa 52,53 , Singapore p. 54, and the attempt by the ship Itasca to locate her pg.57.

3. Now use a different colored pencil to trace her route. Add to the key the year 1937. (Originally Amelia had planned to fly West from California, but because of weather she headed East from Miami to South America to Africa to Howland Islands where she vanished) Use the map progression in the book pgs 49,51,52, 54,56

Enrichment

Students could investigate websites Earhart www.ameliaearhart.com

Encarta.msn.com

[National Women's Hall of Fame - Women of the Hall.](#)

<http://www.greatwomen.org/women.php?action=viewone&id=53>

[Official Amelia Earhart Website](#)

[Amelia Earhart Learns to Fly](#)

Other source books

The Sound of Wings by Mary Lovell

St. Martin's Press

Amelia Earhart by Doris Rich Smithsonian Press 1989

Extension Activities

Students complete a timeline of Amelia's life.

Students create a postcard or telegram from Amelia announcing her successful solo flight.

Watch a video about Amelia Earhart

Invite a theater group to recreate the actress's life.

Class Play reenactment "Amelia Takes to the Skies" by Navidad O'Neill

MacMillan/McGraw-Hill

Communities Adventures in Time and Place Anthology 1997

Assessment

Classroom discussions

"Flight Logs" completed

World map routes traced