

## **AMELIA EARHART WEB TREK: Answer Key**

A Web Trek for grades 3-6

### **A. INTRODUCTION**

Using the web sites listed below, read about flight pioneer Amelia Earhart. You will learn about her life, all the "firsts" she accomplished, and the mystery behind her disappearance. As you read, write five possible discussion topics (not taken from the questions below). Answer the student questions, using complete sentences and using only the resources listed.

### **B. RESOURCES**

AMELIA EARHART:

[http://www.centennialofflight.gov/essay/Explorers\\_Record\\_Setters\\_and\\_Daredevils/earhart/EX29.htm](http://www.centennialofflight.gov/essay/Explorers_Record_Setters_and_Daredevils/earhart/EX29.htm)

AMELIA EARHART'S OCEAN ODYSSEY:

<http://www.pbs.org/odyssey/class/amelia.html>

### **C. STUDENT QUESTIONS**

1. What factors contributed to Earhart's decision to become a pilot? *Her parents' encouragement of non-traditional activities, visiting air shows, and a plane ride. "By the time I had gotten two or three hundred feet off the ground, I knew I had to fly."*
2. On October 22nd, 1922, Earhart set a record, one of the many "firsts" she would accomplish in flight during her flying career. What did she achieve on this day? *She flew to 14,000', setting the altitude record shortly after obtaining her pilot's license that same month.*
3. In June, 1928, Amelia Earhart accomplished another record for women. What did she do this time, and who was she with? *She was the first woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean, when she accompanied pilots Wilmer L. Stutz and Louis E. Gordon. They flew 2000 miles from Newfoundland to Wales, taking 20 hours and 40 minutes.*
4. Describe the hazards Earhart experienced while accomplishing the first female solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean. *Earhart had a broken altimeter and could not read her altitude. She went into a spin when her plane dropped approx. 3000 feet. She experienced changing weather, and flames in the exhaust manifold.*
5. After being the first woman to fly solo over the Pacific Ocean and 2 more solo flights over land, Earhart planned a first for both men and women pilots. Describe what she was trying to do, and what happened on her first attempt. *Earhart wanted to be the 1st person to fly around the equator, the widest part of the Earth. Her first attempt ended in a runway crash in Honolulu.*
6. On what was meant to be the flight around the widest part of the Earth, who was Earhart's navigator? How did they manage to communicate while in flight? *Fred Noonan; they used a fishing pole to pass messages back and forth.*
7. Where was the longest leg of her journey for this last flight? When did she set out for this destination, and how far away were they? What role did the American government have in preparing this destination for the arrival of Earhart and Noonan? *The longest stretch was between Lae, New Guinea, and their final destination of Howland Island, 2,556 miles away. They left for Howland Island on July 2nd, 1937. The U.S. government had created a landing strip for her on this island.*
8. What was the "most plausible theory" for Earhart and Noonan's disappearance? What is certain about their circumstances? *The navigation chart may have incorrectly displayed the location of Howland Island. It is known they were running out of fuel in trying to locate the island, and therefore running out of time.*
9. Look at the map depicting Amelia Earhart's proposed route. Describe the location of Lae, New Guinea, and Howland Island. *Lae, New Guinea, is north of Australia, and close to Papua, New Guinea on the northeastern coast. Howland Island lies east and somewhat north of Lae, New Guinea, and north*

*of the Western and American Samoas, in the Pacific Ocean.*

10. What do you admire most about Amelia Earhart? *Answers will vary.*

#### **D. EXTENSION ACTIVITIES**

1. Trace Earhart's route of her last flight on a world map.
2. Find quotes from Amelia Earhart. After learning more about her life, discuss what made her a courageous person.
3. Research other female pilots, such as Harriet Quimby.
4. Learn more about the mechanics of flight:

#### PAPER AIRPLANES & FLIGHT:

<http://www.exploratorium.edu/exploring/paper/airplanes2.html>

<http://www.amazingpaperairplanes.com/>

<http://www.col-ed.org/cur/sci/sci132.txt>

Read all about the balancing act of how a paper airplane can stay aloft, with the center of gravity and the center of lift. Then make your own planes and test them out, using the 2nd link above. For a full-blown lesson plan on Paper Airplane Science, use the 3rd link above, for grades 2-6.

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