

## Amelia Earhart

There was a time when women were not allowed to do the same jobs as men. Most women did not go to college or work outside of the home, let alone fly planes. Amelia Earhart lived during this time. But she was not like most women.

Amelia was born in Kansas in 1897. As a young girl, she was a *tomboy*, or a girl who likes to do things most boys do. Among other things, she climbed trees and hunted rats with a rifle. In her late teens, she went to see a show of airplane stunts. She was amazed at the things she saw. A few years later, a friend took her for a ride in his plane. Amelia knew at that moment that she wanted to fly planes on her own. In 1921, she took her first flying lesson. She also bought her own plane. She painted it yellow and named it *Canary*.



Over the next few years, Amelia became a great pilot. In 1932, she flew alone across the Atlantic Ocean. She was the first woman to do so. She was just the second pilot to do it, too. The United States Congress gave her the Distinguished Flying Cross. She was the first woman to receive the award. Amelia then flew coast-to-coast across the U.S. without a stop. In 1935, she was the first person to fly alone across the Pacific Ocean. Next, she chose to make a full trip around the Earth.

On June 1, 1937, Amelia began her 29,000-mile (47,000-kilometer) trip around the world. She took off from Miami, Florida, heading east. After a month in the air, she had flown most of the way across the globe. There were stops in parts of South America, Africa, and Asia.



By July 2, there were just 7,000 miles (11,000 kilometers) left to go. Amelia took off over the Pacific. But she disappeared and was not heard from again. No one knows for sure what happened to her or her plane.

Though Amelia was never heard from again, she has not been forgotten. She set many flying records and broke new ground for women. She is known for her courage. She has also inspired many people to work hard to make their dreams come true.