



Amelia Earhart: A Legend in Flight Bessie Coleman

Key Question: *What traits did early aviation pioneers need to be successful?*

Question Set 1 (Nonfiction)

Amelia Earhart: A Legend in Flight Q

Vocabulary Discuss with students that a *trait* is a quality that helps us distinguish one person from another. Physical traits include eye color and hair color. People also have different personality traits, such as being honest or dependable. Ask students to identify personality traits that people have that can be different (outgoing/shy, mean/kind, fearless/timid, and boastful/humble).

What personality traits did Amelia and her sister have that made them different from other girls when they were children? (Level 2)

They both were very active. They liked to run around and do all the things that boys did, which girls usually weren't supposed to do.

What challenges did Amelia face when she decided to be the first woman to fly around the world? (Level 3)
Women didn't typically fly planes, so no one expected that she could be successful at something that was so difficult. Also, in the 1930s planes were not built like they are today. It would be a grueling flight even for any healthy person.

Why do you think people are still interested in finding out what happened to Amelia Earhart? (Level 3)
Amelia is viewed as a very brave person and a hero to many women. Amelia's plane disappeared without a trace. It is a mystery that people want to solve.

Question Set 2 (Nonfiction)

Bessie Coleman R

What kinds of jobs did Bessie and her family do to make money when she was a young girl? (Level 1)
Her parents were sharecroppers until her father left the family. Then her mother worked as a maid. Everyone worked in the fields picking cotton.

Why can Bessie be called a hard worker? (Level 3)
When she was young, Bessie helped take care of her sisters while her mother worked. She worked in the cotton fields while also going to school, completing all eight grades. Bessie washed people's clothes for four years to save

enough money to go to college. When she wanted to learn to fly, she worked as a restaurant manager to save enough money to go to France.

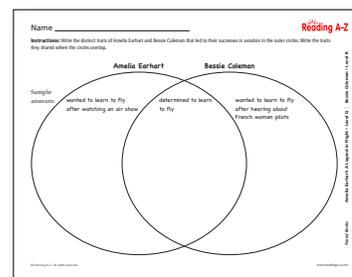
Why was it more difficult for Bessie to learn to fly in the United States than it was in France? (Level 2)
In the early 1900s, African-Americans in the United States faced widespread discrimination. Bessie couldn't find anyone who would teach an African-American woman to fly. This discrimination was less common in France, so Bessie was able to take lessons easily there.

What dream of Bessie's was realized after her death? (Level 1)
Bessie had always wanted to start a flight school for African-Americans. The Bessie Coleman Aero Club was opened three years after her death.

Cross-Text Activities

Graphic Organizer

Students should complete the Venn diagram to describe the traits possessed by Amelia Earhart and Bessie Coleman that led to their successes in aviation.



Response to Reading

Have students cite specific evidence from the books to answer the key question in writing.

Key Question: *What traits did early aviation pioneers need to be successful?*

Flying a plane was a dangerous job in the early days of aviation, so these pioneers needed to be brave. They needed to be willing to try new things that had never been done before. They needed to take risks. They had to be willing to work hard and never give up on their dreams.

Name _____

Instructions: Write the distinct traits of Amelia Earhart and Bessie Coleman that led to their successes in aviation in the outer circles. Write the traits they shared where the circles overlap.

Amelia Earhart

Bessie Coleman

Sample answers:

wanted to learn to fly after watching an air show

determined to learn to fly

wanted to learn to fly after hearing about French women pilots

Name _____

Instructions: Write key points and interesting vocabulary from the discussion of each book in the spaces below.

Key Question: _____

Book 1

Title _____

Key points

Interesting vocabulary

Book 2

Title _____

Key points

Interesting vocabulary