

WOMEN IN HISTORY

Amelia Earhart

Amelia Earhart was born in Atchison, Kansas in 1897. She spent her childhood in Kansas, Minnesota, and Illinois. In 1920, she took her first airplane ride. She loved flying and began taking flying lessons. At that time, women pilots were very rare. When Amelia earned her pilot's license in 1923 she became the 16th woman in the U.S. to have her license to fly.

In 1928, Amelia was the first woman to fly across the Atlantic. She flew with another pilot, Wilmer Stultz. Amelia became very famous for this flight. When she came back to America, she was honored with parades and met President Coolidge. In 1932, Amelia flew across the Atlantic again, this time by herself. She was the first woman to fly alone, or solo, across the Atlantic. For this, Amelia received the Distinguished Flying Cross from Congress, the first woman to receive this honor.

Amelia broke many records for distance and speed. She was the first person to do many things, such as fly from Hawaii to California.

In 1937, Amelia tried to break another record. This time, it was to fly around the world along the equator. She and her crew member, Fred Noonan, took off from Florida on June 1, 1937. They flew across the Atlantic, Africa, and India. When they reached the Pacific, they had radio trouble and were low on fuel. The plane disappeared on July 2, 1937 with Amelia and Fred on board. They were never found.

Amelia's life encouraged many other women to become pilots. She also educated the public about flying and airplanes.



Amelia Earhart in front of the Lockheed Electra.



Amelia Earhart as a child.

Questions

1. What year did Amelia fly across the Atlantic alone?

1932

2. What did Congress give Amelia?

The Distinguished Flying Cross

3. What record did Amelia try to break in 1937?

Flying around the world along the equator