

The year is 1937....

Hello! I'm Amelia Earhart and I'm so excited to see so many young girls here and interested in Aviation. Don't you just love the energy of an airport? Do you have any questions for me?

1. When and where were you born?

I was born in Atchison, Kansas close to Kansas City on July 24, 1897.

2. How old were you when you started to fly?

I was 23 when I took my first airplane ride and I was hooked!

I started taking flying lessons a year later from a woman named Neta Snook. She was just a year older than me. (Picture)

3. How long did it take you to get you pilot's license?

It took me 11 months. I was working at the telephone company in L.A. to make money to pay for my lessons.

When I got my license, I was the 16th woman on record to receive a pilot's license.

4. What records do you hold?

I was the first woman to fly solo above 14,000 feet in about a year and half after I started flying.

About 10 years later I was the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean. I was the second person after Charles Lindbergh. I went from Newfoundland Canada to Ireland. It took me 20 hours and 40 minutes.

I also was the first person to fly solo from Hawaii to the U.S. mainland in 1935.

The next year I participated in the first woman's air race. It was called the Powder Puff Derby. (2 Pictures)

5. How did the ninety nines get started?

The organization was founded in 1929 in Long Island, New York. All 117 women pilots at the time were invited to assemble for mutual support, the advancement of aviation and to create a central office to keep files on women in aviation.

In 1931, I was elected the first President, and the group selected the name "Ninety-Nines" to represent the 99 charter members. Membership was immediately opened to other women as they became licensed pilots.

6. How did you encourage women to be pilots?

I lived and breathed flying and want everyone to catch the flying bug. While living in Boston, I wrote articles promoting flying in the local newspaper. I traveled and did lectures. I also did endorsements for products like Pratt & Whitney aircraft engines, Peter's Original Chocolate Bar, Hudson automobiles, and a Kodak movie camera.

7. Did the endorsements fund your trips?

Well it helped, but In 1932, I developed active wear or flying clothes for the Ninety-Nines and for all active women. My designs were advertised in Vogue magazine! (picture)

8. How did you get started in the fashion business?

I always had an eye for it and had dabbled a bit in making clothes before. One day my husband and I were having brunch with Elsa Schiaparelli, an Italian fashion designer, rival of Coco Chanel. We just got to talking about fashion for active living and a light went off.

I began manufacturing my clothing line in 1933 in a suite in the Hotel Seymour in NYC. All I had was a sewing machine, a mannequin and the help of a one seamstress.

9. *Where can we buy the Amelia Earhart line?*

At first we were in Macy & Co. in **New York**, then Amelia Earhart Fashions went on to be sold at 30 department stores nationwide. All though times are tough now in the 30's we feel like we have a great product and a price for everyone.

10. *What's your next trip?*

I'm planning a trip around the world. It's been a goal of mine and now that I'm 40 I'm ready to realize it. An earlier attempt a few months ago wasn't successful. We were just a few days into the trip when the Lockheed Electra L-10E crashed during takeoff in Honolulu.

It's fixed and my Navigator, Fred Noonan and I are going to try again in just a few days. (2 pictures plane and map). This time we are going east.

Oakland
Tucson
New Orleans
Miami
San Juan then to the north side of S. America
Venezuela
Suriname
Brazil
Cross the Atlantic Ocean to
Senegal in West Africa
Mali through the continent of Africa to
Chad east to
Sudan
Eritrea then over to
Pakistan
India

Myanmar
Thailand
Singapore
Indonesia
Malaysia
Australia
Papua New Guinea
Howland Island
Hawaii then back to
Oakland, CA

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