

Deep-Sea Search



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Amelia Earhart in 1928.

This spring [2005], David Jourdan and a team of explorers will search the floor of the Pacific Ocean for an old airplane. Their **expedition**, or voyage, will concentrate on an area west of Howland Island. The tiny island is located roughly halfway between Australia and Hawaii. The explorers are trying to solve one of history's greatest mysteries—what ever happened to Amelia Earhart?

Who Was Amelia Earhart?

Amelia Earhart was an **aviator**, or airplane pilot, who broke many flying records during the 1930s. In 1932, she became the first woman to fly alone across the Atlantic

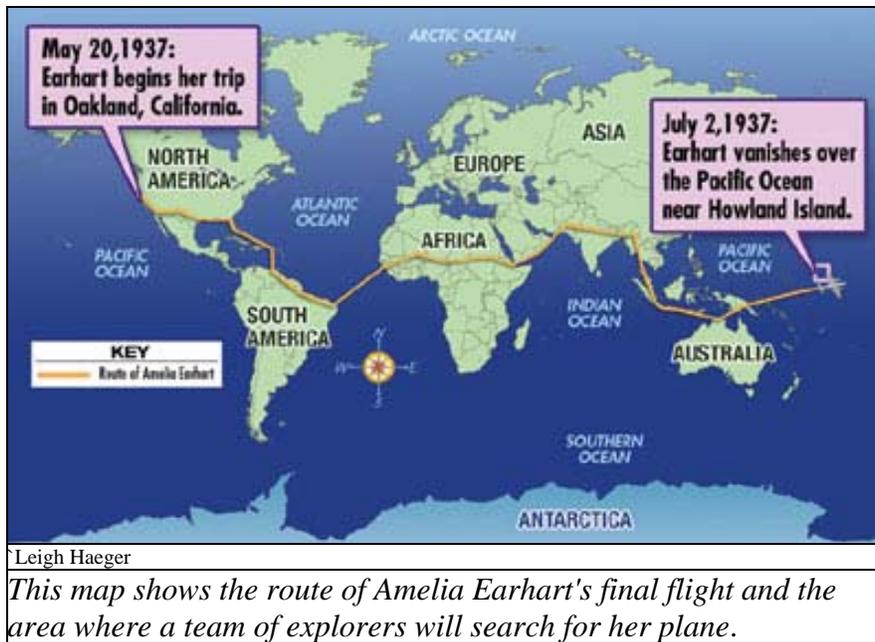
Ocean. In 1937, Earhart attempted to become the first woman to fly an airplane around the world.

During that historic trip, she and her **navigator**, or guide, Fred Noonan, vanished forever. They were scheduled to land on Howland Island in the Pacific. After their disappearance, the U.S. government launched a search, but no trace of the plane was found.

Some people think Earhart's plane ran out of gas and crashed into the Pacific Ocean. Others believe she may have crash-landed on a deserted island and was never rescued.

Searching the Seafloor

Jourdan is confident that his team will find Earhart's plane. "Our expectation is the plane will be largely, if not completely, intact," he said.



The explorers will use **sonar** to search the ocean floor. Sonar sends out sound waves, which bounce off underwater objects.

Over the years, many unsuccessful attempts have been made to solve Earhart's mystery. Despite the uncertainty, Earhart will be remembered as a pioneer of aviation and a fearless flier.

Question Sheet

Name: _____

Date: _____

“Deep-Sea Search” Questions

- _____ 1. To fly around the world, Earhart must have
 - a. been able to fly very fast.
 - b. been very brave.
 - c. had a very large plane.
 - d. wanted to get to other countries around the world.

- _____ 2. David Jourdan is now going to try and find Earhart’s plane even though many people have not been able to find it. He must be
 - a. thorough.
 - b. patient.
 - c. very curious.
 - d. all of the above.

- _____ 3. The author included a map to
 - a. show the reader where Earhart flew.
 - b. show where people have looked for Earhart's plane.
 - c. show the reader how to get to Earhart's plane.
 - d. show the reader how fast Earhart was able to fly.

- _____ 4. Earhart broke a lot of aviator records. As a woman, she teaches other women that they
 - a. should not fly airplanes.
 - b. should set high goals.
 - c. should pursue higher education.
 - d. should eat well and get plenty of exercise.

- _____ 5. What is the main idea of this passage?

Name: _____

Date: _____

“Deep-Sea Search” Answer Sheet

- C 1. To fly around the world, Earhart must have
- been able to fly very fast.
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 - had a very large plane.
 - wanted to get to other countries around the world.
- C 2. David Jourdan is now going to try and find Earhart’s plane even though many people have not been able to find it. He must be
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- should not fly airplanes.
 - should set high goals.**
 - should pursue higher education.
 - should eat well and get plenty of exercise.
- MI 5. What is the main idea of this passage?

Answers will vary. The main idea is that explorers are trying to find Earhart's plane that disappeared years ago.

*Suggested Additional Vocabulary:
expectation, attempt, concentrate, intact, trace*