What was it like to be the first woman to fly an airplane across the Atlantic Ocean? Amelia Earhart was a female aviator born in 1897 in Atchison, Kansas. When she was ten years old, Amelia visited the state fair in Iowa, where the family had recently moved, and saw her first airplane. Surprisingly, she wasn’t impressed with the plane as it was rusty and “not impressive”. She wouldn’t fall in love with airplanes until she was grown and saw one in action during an exhibition. Something sparked within the young woman and she realized she wanted to fly airplanes.

In the early 1920s, women simply weren’t pilots, but Earhart didn’t let that stop her. She was determined to fit into this male dominated world. She worked, took flying lessons and saved enough money to buy a small biplane. The plane was bright yellow Kinner Airster. She named it “The Canary”. She set a world record for female pilots on October 22, 1922, when she flew The Canary to a height of 14,000 feet.

In May of 1932, Earhart became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic and only the second person to accomplish it. She was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross from Congress and went on to break many other records both in aviation and to create firsts for women in aviation. In 1937, she decided to become the first person to fly around the world. Unfortunately, her plane was lost near Howland Island. Earhart and her plane were never found, but she remains a legend in aviation and an inspiration to women.

Questions

1. Was Earhart born before 1900 or after 1900?

2. What country was Amelia Earhart born and raised in?

3. What did she nickname her first airplane?

4. Why was it difficult for Amelia Earhart to break into the world of flying?

5. What happened when Earhart tried to fly around the world?
**Answer Key:**

1. Before 1900

2. United States (America is also an acceptable answer)

3. The Canary

4. There weren’t many women pilots (also acceptable: men dominated the field)

5. Her plane was lost and she was never heard from again