

Amelia Did!



by Yuko Yamamoto

Set Your Purpose

Have you ever wished you could fly? Read this article to find out about a woman who did fly.

How would you like to build your own flying machine?

Amelia Earhart did!

Amelia Earhart was born in 1897. As a girl on her grandparents' farm, she built a ramp. She used wood and wheels to make a skateboard. She would ride the skateboard down the **ramp** and high into the air. She called her invention a "rolly-coaster." When she rode it, she felt like she was flying.

Name _____ Date _____

Check Your Understanding

Fill in the letter with the best answer for each question.

- What is the main idea of the article?
 - Snakes can live in trees.
 - Snakes live almost everywhere.
 - Snakes do not like freezing cold weather.
- Which is a detail from the article?
 - The author does not like snakes.
 - Some snakes live in the sea.
 - Snakes never go underground.
- Snakes cannot live
 - where it is always very cold.
 - in forests.
 - in lakes or streams.
- If an enemy saw a snake that was not moving, it would probably
 - bury it in the ground.
 - eat it quickly.
 - leave it alone.

Vocabulary

Find each vocabulary word in the selection. The words and sentences around it will help you figure out its meaning.

Fill in the letter with the best definition of the underlined word.

- Look out for snakes when you hike in forests.
 - dry, hot places
 - places with many trees
 - cold places
- Garter snakes are harmless.
 - will not hurt you
 - desert snakes
 - snakes that live in the sea
- Some snakes are hard to find.
 - simple
 - not strong
 - not easy
- The snake shed its skin.
 - removed
 - grew
 - scraped

Name _____ Date _____

Check Your Understanding

Fill in the letter with the best answer for each question.

- This article is mainly about
 - inventions.
 - paintings.
 - the Mona Lisa.
 - Leonardo da Vinci.
- Which of the following best describes Leonardo da Vinci?
 - bicyclist
 - original thinker
 - airplane pilot
 - painter
- What did Leonardo have to do with the first bicycle?
 - He rode it.
 - He built it.
 - He drew a picture of it.
 - He bought the first one.
- The Mona Lisa is
 - one of Leonardo's sisters.
 - a city Leonardo planned.
 - a famous sculpture.
 - a famous painting.
- Leonardo wrote his ideas
 - on the computer.
 - on a mirror.
 - backwards, in a notebook.
 - on the walls.

Vocabulary

Find each vocabulary word in the selection. The words and sentences around it will help you figure out its meaning.

Fill in the letter with the best definition of the underlined word.

- Leonardo da Vinci had many talents.
 - tall friends
 - gifts or abilities
 - drawings
 - pieces of work
- He was a true genius.
 - gentle person
 - person who works
 - unusually smart person
 - person who gives
- Leonardo was an inventor.
 - fixer of machines
 - maker of light bulbs
 - painter of faces
 - creator of something new
- Mona Lisa's face has a puzzling expression.
 - sweet
 - hard to figure out
 - unfriendly
 - plain or common
- Leonardo wondered why waves form in water.
 - fall
 - go far
 - take shape
 - swim

Making Inferences

- ❖ When you read, you can use clues, along with what you already know, to help you figure out what the author doesn't tell you.
 - As you read, ask yourself: "What is the author leaving out that is important to understanding the article?"
 - Look for clues in the text.
 - Ask yourself: "What do I already know about something like this?"
 - Use clues and your own experience to figure out what the author means or does not tell you.

- ❖ Read this story. Use story clues and what you already know to **make inferences** that will answer these questions:
 - What can you figure out about Mark McGwire's batting ability?
 - What can you figure out about Sammy Sosa's ability as a ballplayer?

Clue

These sentences give clues to how amazing Mark McGwire's accomplishment was.

Clue

Sosa's 66 home runs are a clue to his hitting ability.

Race for the Record

On September 8, 1998, Cardinals slugger Mark McGwire hit his 62nd home run of the season. In doing so, he broke Roger Maris's record, which had stood for 37 years. McGwire went on to hit a total of 70 home runs. The 66 homers pounded in by the Cub's Sammy Sosa that same year would have been a record-breaking event in any other season!



- ❖ You could chart the clues that helped you **make inferences** in the paragraph like this:

Clues	What I Know	What I Can Figure Out
Roger Maris's home-run record stood for 37 years.	If a record is not broken for a long time, it must have been a hard thing to do.	Mark McGwire is a great batter.
Mark McGwire broke Maris's record and hit 70 home runs in one season.	Someone who breaks a record and then sets an even bigger record has done something amazing.	Sammy Sosa is also a great batter.
Sammy Sosa hit 66 home runs in the same season.	Sosa also broke Roger Maris's record.	

Your Turn

- ❖ Read this story. What **inferences** can you make about the stone blocks? Make a chart like the one above.

The Mystery of the Great Stones

In many places around the world there are large blocks of stone. Some of these stand alone. Others form rings or lines. Still others look like huge tables. They are some of the earliest buildings.

Most of these stones are on flat land. No other stones are around them. We think people from long ago used ropes and logs to move the stones. This took many years.

What did the stones mean? It's still a mystery. Some rings may have been calendars. Maybe they were meeting places. What do you think?



Rocket Man!

adapted by Lee McKlow

Set Your Purpose

What's it like to be in outer space? Read this interview for some inside information.

Do the words "blast off" thrill you?

Would you like people to say that you have "the right stuff"? That is the best **compliment** an astronaut can give someone. NASA astronaut Tom Jones has the right stuff. He has blasted into space three times. Here he tells an interviewer what it is like:

Interviewer: When did you decide to become an astronaut?

Tom Jones: When I was 10. It was 1965, and U.S. astronauts were practicing for the first trips to the moon.

Interviewer: What does it feel like when you blast off in the space shuttle?

Tom Jones: First, there's a **rumble** as the engines fire up. Then there's a huge **jolt**, followed by steady shaking. In the eight minutes it takes to get to orbit, the pressure (heavy feeling) against your chest builds. It feels like a 700-pound gorilla is sitting on top of you. Once in orbit, the pressure is gone and you are weightless.

Interviewer: What does it feel like to be weightless?

Tom Jones: It's very peaceful, like you're floating underwater. With a touch of your finger, you can push off and **glide** wherever you want.

Interviewer: What's cool about being in space?

Tom Jones: The view of Earth. At any point, you can "swim" over to the window and catch a **glimpse** of oceans, snow-covered forests, and deserts. The colors are amazing.

Interviewer: What advice would you give kids who want to be astronauts?

Tom Jones: Work hard in school. You need a college degree. You also need three years of work experience before you can apply to NASA to become an astronaut.

If you don't get picked the first time, keep trying. And don't give up!