

Flying Solo

HOW RUTH ELDER SOARED INTO AMERICA'S HEART

A RIF GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY COORDINATORS



Themes: Aviation, Famous Women, Perseverance

Book Brief: This book tells the story of Ruth Elder, one of the first pilots to try to fly across the Atlantic Ocean. Even though Ruth's plane landed in the

ocean before making it to Europe, her popularity soared.

Author: Julie Cummins

Illustrator: Malene R. Laugesen



TIME TO READ!

Before reading, make predictions: What does it mean to fly solo? Based on the picture, when do you think this story took place?

What made Ruth Elder special?

While reading, make connections: Have you ever wanted to do something risky? Ruth became famous just for trying something new. Can you think of

anyone famous like that today? What might it feel like to fly in a plane with no cover? Would you be scared?

After reading, ask questions:

- ◆ What do you think fueled Ruth's motivation to keep flying?
- ◆ How long do you think it takes to learn to fly an airplane?
- ◆ How would you describe Ruth?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

BANANA AIRPLANES

Ingredients: banana, pretzel sticks, chocolate chips

Cut 1 banana in half lengthwise. Use 4 pretzel sticks to make the wings (2 on each side). Use 6 chocolate chips for the windows. Press the pointed tops into the banana. Take a quick flight and then enjoy.

TOTALLY TUBULAR TRAVEL

Recycle your paper towel tubes to make a plane.

Materials: 1 paper towel tube, 1 piece of colored heavy paper, scissors, tape, markers or paint

Draw 2 wings on heavy paper. Cut out the wings with scissors. Fold the wings about a 1/2 inch from end and attach to tube with tape. Decorate.



IN PLANE SIGHT

If you live near an airport, watch the planes take off and land. Visit your local library for great books on airplanes and aviators. Use the key to flyers on the last page of the book as a reference to find out more about women aviators!

TECHNOLOGY LINK

Check out www.funpaperairplanes.com for 5 free paper airplane designs.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

OTHER BOOKS ABOUT WOMEN AVIATORS

Amelia and Eleanor Go for a Ride, Pam Muñoz Ryan (1999)
Fly High! The Story of Bessie Coleman, Louise Borden (2004)
Nobody Owns the Sky, Reeve Lindbergh (1998)



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