What is your name? _____

In the 1920s and 30s the airlines were just beginning. It was unusual for people to travel by air because it was expensive, uncomfortable and dangerous.

_____ Young men, or 'stewards' helped the passengers onto the aeroplane and carried *the passengers'* luggage but they did not provide food and drinks. But then, in 1930, a woman called Ellen Church invented the 'stewardess'.

Ellen Church was born in 1904 on a farm in Iowa. She was an unconventional child. _____ Ellen studied to be a nurse at the University of Minnesota and then got a job in a hospital. For the next few years she stayed at the hospital but also took flying lessons and got her pilot's license.

Ellen was twenty-five-years old when she first contacted Boeing Air Transport. _____ Although women like Emelia Earheart were becoming famous, she realized it was impossible for a woman to have a career as a pilot. But she had another idea. Most people were frightened of flying because flying was still an unreliable way to travel. There were often delays, many crashes and the bad weather made many passengers sick. Ellen thought nurses could take care of passengers during flights and B.A.T. agreed.

The young woman from Iowa and seven other nurses became the first air stewardesses.

At first pilots were unhappy because they did not want stewardesses on aeroplanes, but passengers loved the stewardesses. In 1940 there were around 1000 of them working for different airlines. The original 'stewardess' had to be under twenty-five years-old, single and slim. When a woman joined an airline, she had to promise not to get married or have children. It was a hard job and not well paid. _____

In the 1970s, stewardesses were unhappy in their job and airlines had to make some changes. Since the 1970s, 'stewards' and 'stewardesses' have been called flight attendants or cabin crew. _____

The first 'stewardess', Ellen Church, finally became a pilot when she worked as a captain in the Army. Unfortunately, she died in 1965 after a horse-riding accident.

Questions!

1. **Read the article and find four names for people employed to look after passengers on an aeroplane.**
   a. _____
   b. _____
   c. _____
   d. _____

2. **Add the sentences to the gaps in the text. There is one extra sentence.**

a. She didn't want to work on a farm or marry a farmer – she wanted a more adventurous life.
b. They earn a good salary and work fewer hours than in the past.
c. She loved flying but she understood that airlines were a man's world.
d. Most airlines only provided one flight attendant for every fifty seats.
e. They worked long hours and earned only $1 an hour.
f. In those days, there were no flight attendants to look after the passengers.

LIVEWORKSHEETS