

LOST

NAME: _____

Read the article.

Lost

Back in 1937, Amelia Earhart was one of the most famous women in the world. She was an author, a fashion designer and a magazine editor, but most of all, she was a pioneering pilot. Five years earlier, at the age of 34, she'd become the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean. She also broke many aviation records for going faster and further than any other woman. Every time she landed her plane, she was met by huge crowds wanting to see her and congratulate her. The books that she wrote about her flights were all bestsellers.

That year, Amelia decided she wanted to go one step further. She wanted to go for the ultimate aviation prize and be the first woman to fly around the world. On 1 June, along with her navigator Fred Noonan, Amelia set off from Miami in her plane, a Lockheed Electra, on what would be her biggest – and final – adventure.

The journey was going well when, on 29 June, the pair landed in New Guinea. They'd flown 35,000 km, and they had 11,000 km over the Pacific to go. But on 2 July, while heading towards Howland Island, Amelia and Fred went missing. The next day the world awoke to the news that Amelia Earhart had disappeared into thin air.

Despite a huge search, no sign of the aircraft was ever found. Most people thought that Amelia and Fred



must have run out of fuel and that the Electra had gone down in the Pacific Ocean. They couldn't have survived the crash, and they must have died. It seemed the most obvious explanation. But, over the years, other ideas have developed about just what might have happened to the plane.

One theory was that Amelia might have landed her plane on the tiny island of Nikumaroro, not far from Howland Island. In the hope of proving this theory, an expedition went to the island in 2007 to look for signs of the tragic flight. Bones were found that could have been human fingers, but scientists were unable to say for sure if they were. In 2012, another expedition used underwater photography. Images were taken of what could have been an aircraft, but again, investigators couldn't be certain.

Perhaps the most interesting theory is that Earhart disappeared on purpose so that she could spy on the Japanese for the American government. It goes without saying that both countries deny this. But then what else would they say?



Put the events in the order they happened. Write the numbers in the boxes.

- ☐ The Electra takes off from Miami.
- ☐ Earhart plans to fly around the world.
- ☐ Bones that might be Earhart's are found on a small island.
- ☐ The Electra disappears.
- ☐ Possible evidence of the plane is found.
- ☐ The Electra lands in New Guinea.
- ☐ Earhart flies alone across the Atlantic.
- ☐ The Electra sets off across the Pacific.
- ☐ Earhart tries to find Howland Island.