

Unit 10

Reading

1 Nellie Bly, A Pioneering Female Traveller

Today very few people know the name Nellie Bly but in the late nineteenth century she was one of the most famous women in the world. She was born in the U.S. in 1864. As a teenager, she wrote a letter to a newspaper complaining about an article. The editor liked the letter so much that he asked her to work for the paper.

Nellie's newspaper decided to send a journalist around the world following the route of the characters in Jules Verne's popular novel *Around the World in Eighty Days*. Nellie wanted to go but the newspaper turned her down; at that time, most people thought that it was wrong for a woman – especially a young single woman – to travel by herself. The editor changed his mind when she told him, "If you don't send me, I will do it for another newspaper!"

Her 40,000-kilometre journey began on the 14th of November, 1889. Nellie took a steamship from New York to England. Next, she travelled to France, Italy, Egypt, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Japan. From Japan, she sailed to San Francisco where she boarded a train for New York.

People had followed her trip by reading daily newspaper accounts and they warmly welcomed her home. When she arrived in New York there were huge celebrations. She completed her trip in 72 days and six hours – a new world record. Not only was Nellie's trip the fastest, she was also the first woman to travel around the world without a man.

Five years after her trip, Nellie married a millionaire manufacturer. She retired from journalism and became the president of a company that made steel containers. Nellie Bly died in 1922 at the age of 57.

2 For questions 1–3 please answer in complete sentences.

1. Why did the editor offer Nellie Bly a job at the newspaper?

2. What was the first country she visited?

3. Where did she start and end her trip around the world?
