

Chapter 2: Neerja Bhanot

Fill-in-the-Blanks

1. Neerja Bhanot was born on _____ in Chandigarh.
2. Neerja's parents were _____ and _____.
3. Later, Neerja's family moved to _____, then called Bombay.
4. Neerja was a sensitive and _____ young woman.
5. In 1985, Neerja got married to her husband in the _____.
6. Under the strain of _____ pressure, Neerja returned to her parents' home.
7. Neerja joined the training for a _____ with Pan Am airlines.
8. On _____, 1986, she returned from a modelling assignment.
9. The plane was hijacked by four heavily armed _____.
10. Neerja was the senior _____ on the flight.
11. The hijackers wanted to target the _____ passengers.
12. Neerja collected all the _____ passports and hid them.
13. The _____ crew of the plane deserted the passengers.
14. Neerja kept the passengers _____ and calm.
15. She was shot while protecting _____.
16. Neerja Bhanot was awarded the _____, India's highest civilian award for bravery.
17. She also received the _____-e-Insaniyat award from Pakistan.
18. Neerja's heroic actions were described as "brave in life, _____ in death."
19. Her parents set up a trust with an initial amount of _____ lakh.
20. The trust gives awards to _____ airline crew members.

21. The Pan Am citation mentioned that Neerja was called upon under the most _____ conditions.

22. Neerja's bravery saved the lives of _____ passengers.

23. She exhibited great _____ and presence of mind during the hijack.

24. The hijack lasted for _____ hours.

25. Neerja shouted the hijack _____ to alert the captain.

26. Neerja helped passengers escape by opening the _____ doors.

27. The terrorists opened fire when they realized the passengers were trying to _____.

28. The Ashok Chakra citation stated Neerja's _____ to passengers will remain a lasting tribute.

29. Neerja was known for her sense of _____ and beautiful face.

30. Neerja's story is an inspiration to the _____ of our country.

Multiple Choice Questions

1. What was Neerja Bhanot's role during the Pan Am flight hijacking in 1986?
 - a) A passenger who helped coordinate the escape
 - b) An undercover security officer assigned to the flight
 - c) The senior flight purser who took command after cockpit crew fled
 - d) A trainee flight attendant observing senior crew members
2. How did Neerja protect American passengers during the hijacking?

- a) She collected and hid their passports to confuse terrorists
- b) She disguised them as crew members
- c) She moved them to a secured compartment
- d) She taught them phrases in Hindi to blend in

3. What heroic action directly led to Neerja's death?

- a) Attempting to negotiate with the hijackers
- b) Trying to overpower the armed terrorists
- c) Shielding three children from gunfire
- d) Preventing the plane from taking off again

4. Which of these awards was NOT received by Neerja Bhanot posthumously?

- a) Ashok Chakra (India)
- b) Bharat Ratna (India)
- c) Tamgha-e-Insaniyat (Pakistan)
- d) Medal of Heroism (USA)

5. What did Neerja's parents establish in her memory?

- a) A women's empowerment organization
- b) A memorial at the Karachi airport
- c) A flight safety training academy
- d) A trust giving awards for bravery and social justice

6. Why did the cockpit crew's actions during the hijacking shock people?

- a) They cooperated with the hijackers
- b) They abandoned the plane and passengers
- c) They caused the plane to crash-land
- d) They refused medical help for injured passengers

7. What personal challenge had Neerja faced before becoming a flight attendant?

- a) A failed arranged marriage with dowry pressures
- b) Discrimination as a female pilot trainee
- c) Financial struggles during her modelling career
- d) Health issues preventing her from finishing education

8. How did Neerja first alert authorities about the hijacking?

- a) By sending a radio message to air traffic control
- b) By shouting the hijack code while being restrained
- c) By activating the plane's emergency transponder
- d) By writing a note passed to ground staff

9. What was the duration of the hijacking ordeal?

- a) Approximately 17 hours
- b) Less than 2 hours

- c) Nearly 24 hours
- d) About 8 hours

10. Which quality BEST describes Neerja's actions during the crisis?

- a) Innovation in creating escape plans
- b) Compassion in prioritizing children's safety
- c) Leadership in maintaining calm and organizing evacuation
- d) All of the above