# Plack History Month BESSIE COLEMAN



on January 26, 1892, in Atlanta, Texas, Bessie or Elizabeth as she was known, emerged child in a family of 13. Her parents,

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for reading and a talent for r family faced racial challenges her father's belief that

Territory in Oklahoma might e. Despite his aspirations, he left the family when e, leaving her mother to work as a maid while Bessle or her younger siblings. The Family's Financial is cotton harvest season meant that Bessle, like rican children, couldn't attend school. Nevertheless, nplete all eight grades at the local school. Though nising, Financial setbacks forced her to pause her

the beginning of a remarkable journey.

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remarkable journey. her brothers



Shop on me the backdrop for her prid War I pilots that sparked her the next chapter of Bessie ed, setting the stage for her

world of Flight

orld of aviation marked a life. Her initial fascination with the id War I pilots while living in a fervent passion for flight. Flying schools in the United scial and gender prejudices, seemed thwarted However, a me when her Friend Robert ath - travel to France for Flight

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Bessie tone In perican 's license tills in

aptivated audiences and

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ersonal friumphs. She dreamed of ope rican Americans in the United States ould follow in her trailblazing footst mained unrealized as Bessie's life w ash in 1926. Nevertheless, her legac on the history of aviation and insc

yay for future generations of aviators.

# ESSIE COLEMAN

Comprehension Questions CHOOSE THE RIGHT ANSWER.

Bessie Coleman born?

Ne. Texas

rile, Florida y siblings did Bessie Coleman have?

d Bessie's father hope to find by moving t

ritory in Oklahoma? ved racial treatment to aviation schools tural opportunities

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hich year did Bessie move to Chicago, Illino

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READING COMPREHENSION

# READING PASSAGES WITH **TEXT DEPENDENT QUESTIONS**

# Ready to Print & Fditable



# BESSIE COLEMAN

groundbreaking achieve PILOT LICENSE IN Bessie Coleman's entra significant chapter in h

Abbott suggested on a

Bessie embraced this managing a restauran of Friends who shared transformative voyage the prestigious Caudr overcome barriers, Br each way to attend h

After seven months Coleman achieved an 1921, she emerged as woman ever to hold Her accomplishment: obtaining the license high-flying stunts or performances becar showcased her Fear

Specializing in dareds act where she balar another pilot took only impressed but performed Bessie's paved the way for

Despite her ground aspirations beyond aviation school for future where othe Tragically, this visio in a devastating pla leaving an indelible

Born on January 26, 1892, in Atlanta, Texas, Bessie Coleman, or Elizabeth as she was known, emerged as the tenth child in a family of 13. Her parents, both sharecroppers, moved the family to Waxahachie, Texas, when Bessie was just two years old. In Waxahachie, she attended school, showcasing a love for reading and a talent for math. However, her family faced racial challenges in Texas, prompting her father's beliefthat relocating to Indian Territory in Oklahoma might

offer a better life. Despite his aspirations, he left the family when Bessie was only nine, leaving her mother to work as a maid while Bessie assisted in caring for her younger siblings. The family's financial struggles during the cotton harvest season meant that Bessie, like many African American children, couldn't attend school. Nevertheless, she managed to complete all eight grades at the local school. Though college seemed promising, financial setbacks forced her to pause her education, marking the beginning of a remarkable journey.

Facing numerous challenges during her formative years, Bessie Coleman's journey was marked by persistent educational struggles. The demanding nature of cotton harvests in her hometown meant that African American children, including Bessle, were unable to attend school during those crucial times. Undeterred by this setback, Bessie managed to complete all eight grades at the local school during the non-harvest periods. However, Financial constraints hampered her higher education aspirations. Although she saved diligently for college, Bessie's dreams were temporarily thwarted, and she had to discontinue her studies at the Oklahoma Colored Agricultural and Normal University after just one year. Despite these setbacks, Bessle's determination and resilience continued to shape her remarkable journey.

### CHICAGO CALLING:

At 23 years old, in 1915, Bessie embarked on a journey to Chicago, Illinois, where her brothers resided. Transitioning from her role as a manicurist at the White Sox Barber Shop on Chicago's Southside, Bessle found herself yearning for more in life. The bustling city became the backdrop for her aspirations, fueled by the tales of World War I pilots that sparked her interest in aviation. It was here that the next chapter of Bessie Coleman's remarkable journey unfolded, setting the stage for her

the skies, undeterred by obstacles.

#### HE TRAGIC END

spite her extraordinary hievements, Bessie Coleman's life met heartbreaking end in 1926 at the age 34. Attending a show in Jacksonville, rida, she participated in a parachute ip. Refusing to wear her seat belt, sie needed to lean out of the plane Find a suitable landing spot. T ically, a wrench fell into the control rs, resulting in the loss of control ckpit, Bessie could do nothing as pilot lost their lives in the accident. on, was laid to rest in Chicago's

g aviator has been duly intimely death. Her on were honored posthumously evements. In 1995, the U.S. Post in her honor, symbolizing the accomplishments. Furthermore, Chicago, where a street was reminder of her influence on the

man's enduring legacy vitions. Her story continues to those facing obstacles and determination and resilience. As

woman who defied racial and gender barriers to pecome a skilled aviator, Bessie Coleman's life serves as a powerful testament to the possibilities that arise when passion, talent, and perseverance converge. Her legacy remains a source of inspiration for aspiring aviators and individuals striving for excellence in their chosen Fields, leaving an indelible mark on the history of aviation and paving the

## READING COMPREHENSION

COLORED & B/W **VERSIONS INCLUDED** 

7. How did Bessie manage to overcome racial and gender barriers to learn to fly? a. She joined the military b. She traveled to France For training a local aviation school d a scholarship or did Bessie Coleman become the first African to hold an international pilot license? BESSIE COLEMAN Comprehension Questions ic event led to Bessie Coleman's death in 1926? DIRECTIONS: CHOOSE THE RIGHT ANSWER. I. Where was Bessie Coleman born? crash a. Chicago, Illinois b. Atlanta, Texas cognition did Bessie Coleman receive posthumously in c. Waxahachie, Texas d. Jacksonville, Florida 2. How many siblings did Bessie Coleman have? ast Office stamp essional Gold Medal on Pioneer Award b. 10 c. 13 ension Questions: Bessie Coleman's early life, including details about her d. 20 stringing, and the challenges she faced during her childhood. 3. What did Bessie's father hope to find by moving the family to were the educational struggles Bessie Faced, and how did she to attend college despite Financial setbacks? Indian Territory in Oklahoma? a. Better educational opportunities n the pivotal moment in Bessie Coleman's life when she decided b. Improved racial treatment to Chicago. What were her aspirations, and how did she c. Access to aviation school d. Agricultural opp her dreams in a new city? orate on Bessie Coleman's journey to become a pilot. How did lend Robert Abbott contribute to her aviation ambitions, and Answers Key college in Oklahoma? challenges did she overcome to achieve her goal? wide details about the tragic incident that led to Bessie ian's death. What were the circumstances surrounding the MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS: ine crash, and how did it impact her legacy in the field of L Where was Bessle Coleman born? 2. How many siblings did Bessie Coleman have? o, Illinois? 3. What did Bessie's father hope to find by moving the family to Indon Territory in Oktober 2 treatment ion? N. Why did Bessle have to stop attending college in Oklahama? re pursuing 5. In which year did Bessie move to chicago. Illinois? , what job did Bessle take up in Chicago before pursuing Violation? 7. How did Bessle manage to overcome racial and gender berriers to learn to 6197 aviation? In which year did sessis Coleman become the first African American pilat to hold an international pilat (scense?
 American pilat to the session of t Q. What tragic even led to Bessle Coleman's death in 1926? what recognition did Bessie Coleman receive posthumously in MCQ'S & Answer b. U.S. Post Office stamp Describe Sessie Coleman's early life, including details about
the family, upbringing, and the challenges she faced during her
philiphonal. **QUESTIONS** EXPLANATORY QUESTIONS: 1995? **ANSWER KEY INCLUDED** 



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\*FONTS ARE EMBEDED FOR CONVENIENCE



