

READING PASSAGES WITH TEXT DEPENDENT QUESTIONS

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BESSIE COLEMAN

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 belief that 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.



EDUCATION:

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 Bessie, 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, Bessie'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, Bessie 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.

THE TRAGIC END

Despite her extraordinary achievements, Bessie Coleman's life met a heartbreaking end in 1930. At the age of 38, she participated in a parachute jump. Refusing to wear her seat belt, she needed to leap out of the plane early, a wrench fall into the control tower, resulting in the loss of control. Tragically, Bessie could do nothing as pilot lost their lives in the accident. Her body was laid to rest in Chicago's

Bessie Coleman has been duly honored posthumously, with a street named in her honor, symbolizing her accomplishments. Furthermore, her legacy remains a source of inspiration for pilots and individuals striving for excellence in their chosen fields, leaving an indelible mark on the history of aviation and paving the way for future generations.

Bessie Coleman's enduring legacy is a testament to the power of determination and resilience. As a trailblazer, she continues to inspire and challenge us to overcome the obstacles and barriers that stand in our way. Her story is a powerful reminder of the possibilities that arise when passion, talent, and perseverance converge. Her legacy remains a source of inspiration for pilots and individuals striving for excellence in their chosen fields, leaving an indelible mark on the history of aviation and paving the way for future generations.

groundbreaking achiever

PILOT LICENSE IN
Bessie Coleman's initial significant chapter in her



Abbott suggested on a training

Bessie embraced this managing a restaurant of friends who shared transformative voyage. She overcame barriers, by each way to attend in

After seven months, Coleman achieved an 1921, she emerged as a woman ever to hold. Her accomplishment in obtaining the license high-flying stunts or performances became showcased her feat.

Specializing in aerial act where she broke another pilot took. Only impressed but performed. Bessie paved the way for.

Despite her ground aspirations beyond aviation school for future where she tragically, this was in a devastating pil leaving an indelible

READING COMPREHENSION

COLORED & B/W VERSIONS INCLUDED

Name _____

Date _____

BESSIE COLEMAN

Comprehension Questions

DIRECTIONS: CHOOSE THE RIGHT ANSWER.

1. Where was Bessie Coleman born?

- a. Chicago, Illinois
- b. Atlanta, Texas
- c. Waxahachie, Texas
- d. Jacksonville, Florida

2. How many siblings did Bessie Coleman have?

- a. 5
- b. 10
- c. 13
- d. 20

3. What did Bessie's father hope to find by moving the family to Indian Territory in Oklahoma?

- a. Better educational opportunities
- b. Improved racial treatment
- c. Access to aviation schools
- d. Agricultural opportunities

4. Why did Bessie Coleman move to Chicago, Illinois?

Answers Key

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS:

1. Where was Bessie Coleman born?
- Answer: b. Atlanta, Texas

2. How many siblings did Bessie Coleman have?
- Answer: c. 13

3. What did Bessie's father hope to find by moving the family to Indian Territory in Oklahoma?
- Answer: b. Improved racial treatment

4. Why did Bessie have to stop attending college in Oklahoma?
- Answer: b. Family financial difficulties

5. In which year did Bessie move to Chicago, Illinois?
- Answer: b. 1915

6. What job did Bessie take up in Chicago before pursuing aviation?
- Answer: b. Monicist

7. How did Bessie manage to overcome racial and gender barriers to learn to fly?
- Answer: b. She traveled to France for training

8. In which year did Bessie Coleman become the first African American pilot to hold an international pilot license?
- Answer: c. 1921

9. What tragic event led to Bessie Coleman's death in 1926?
- Answer: b. Airplane crash

10. What recognition did Bessie Coleman receive posthumously in 1945?
- Answer: b. U.S. Post Office stamp

EXPLANATORY QUESTIONS:

1. Describe Bessie Coleman's early life, including details about her family upbringing, and the challenges she faced during her childhood.

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 and a local aviation school
- c. She received a scholarship and a local aviation school
- d. She received a scholarship

8. In which year did Bessie Coleman become the first African American pilot to hold an international pilot license?

9. What tragic event led to Bessie Coleman's death in 1926?

- a. Airplane crash
- b. Car accident
- c. Heart attack
- d. Stroke

10. What recognition did Bessie Coleman receive posthumously in 1945?

- a. Posthumous Medal of Honor
- b. Post Office stamp
- c. Congressional Gold Medal
- d. National Pioneer Award

EXPLANATION QUESTIONS:

1. Describe Bessie Coleman's early life, including details about her upbringing, and the challenges she faced during her childhood. How did her family's move to Indian Territory in Oklahoma affect her education and opportunities?

2. How did Bessie Coleman overcome racial and gender barriers to learn to fly? What role did her family's financial difficulties play in her decision to move to Chicago?

3. In which year did Bessie Coleman become the first African American pilot to hold an international pilot license? How did this achievement impact her dreams in a new city?

4. What job did Bessie take up in Chicago before pursuing aviation? How did this job contribute to her aviation ambitions, and what challenges did she overcome to achieve her goal?

5. What details about the tragic incident that led to Bessie Coleman's death would you like to know? How did the crash impact her legacy in the field of aviation?

MCQ'S & QUESTIONS

ANSWER KEY INCLUDED

READY TO PRINT

NO-PREP !

JUST PRINT AND GO!



EASY EDITING

EDITABLE

***FONTS ARE EMBEDDED FOR CONVENIENCE**

