Unit 3 Skill Focus: Drawing Conclusions/Predicting Outcomes

Unit 3 Theme: Ancient Egypt
Skill Focus—Drawing Conclusions/Predicting Outcomes

What do you think happened to Amelia Earhart's plane?

Earhart was not skilled in radio communication.

Earhart and Noonan did not carry Morse code signaling equipment.

Earhart and Noonan did not have the most current navigational charts.

Earhart was a spy.

Earhart wanted to lead a less public life.

The Electra ran out of fuel.

Evidence
Conclusion

Reading Comprehension Skills

Main Idea
Compare and Contrast
Drawing Conclusions/Predicting Outcomes
Cause and Effect
Figurative Language
Bias and Prejudice
Who Was Amelia Earhart?

Amelia Mary Earhart is perhaps the most famous female aviator in history. Her life began in Atchison, Kansas. She was born on July 24, 1897, the eldest of two daughters of Edwin and Amy Earhart.

Earhart and her sister, Muriel, were fascinated by nature. Worms, crickets, toads, horses, and chickens were all interesting to these country girls. Even as a young girl, Earhart was ahead of her times. She preferred bloomers—loose shorts that gathered at her knees—to the long dresses and ruffled aprons most girls wore.

In 1991, Dr. Tommy Love, a diver for The International Group for Historic Aircraft Recovery, was sitting on the sand on Nikumaroro, a Pacific island. A crab scuttled by and knocked over a leaf, revealing the heel of an old shoe. Could the shoe fragment help solve the puzzle of the disappearance of Amelia Earhart, the well-known aviator?

The mystery of Earhart’s disappearance was more than fifty years old. In 1937, Earhart, her navigator Fred Noonan, and their plane disappeared while flying over the Pacific Ocean. More than three thousand people had taken part in a search, including at least sixty-five planes, a United States Navy battleship, an aircraft carrier, and destroyers. Neither the plane nor its passengers have ever been found.

Amelia Earhart

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Earhart took risks when she was little. After a visit to a fair, the seven-year-old built a roller coaster in her yard. Riders could coast down wooden boards, which Earhart leaned steeply against the tool shed roof.

In high school, Earhart was an excellent student who enjoyed playing basketball. She got good grades, but if she wasn’t interested in something, she made no effort to succeed.

Earhart became interested in flying planes when she visited a friend at an airfield in 1918. From this moment on, flying planes became a lifelong fascination for Earhart, and she was determined to find a way to fly. Some time later, she casually mentioned to her family that she wanted nothing more than to fly. Surprisingly, her father’s only reply was to ask when she wanted to start.

In January 1921, Earhart began to take flying lessons with Neta Snook, a woman just a year older than herself. Snook noticed that Earhart often made mistakes when she flew.

Earhart took off one day for a fairly long trip without checking the fuel tank. She assumed that it was full, since the owner always filled it. In fact, the tank had not been filled. She landed safely, but she had taken a risk. Earhart also confessed to Snook that she sometimes daydreamed when flying.

In July 1921, just before her twenty-fourth birthday, Earhart bought a plane. The purchase worried her friends. The plane had a small, unreliable engine. However, Earhart liked it because she could pick up the tail and move the plane by herself. She named it “The Canary.”

Within days, Earhart had her first plane crash. Earhart was fine, but the propeller and landing gear were smashed. Earhart didn’t let that deter her.

In October 1922, Earhart went on a solo flight. Without telling anyone, she decided to see how high she could fly. Could she top the women’s altitude record? She broke the record, reaching fourteen thousand feet.

Earhart, around 1920, with her first plane, which she called “The Canary.”
The Mysterious Disappearance of Amelia Earhart

Skill Focus—Drawing Conclusions/Predicting Outcomes

What do you think happened to Amelia Earhart’s plane?

Graphic Organizer and Questions

1. Copy and complete the chart below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evidence</th>
<th>Conclusion</th>
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<tbody>
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2. What facts about Amelia Earhart’s childhood give you clues about the kind of life she would lead as an adult?

3. What do you think the remainder of Amelia Earhart’s life would have been like if she had not disappeared?

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