

# The Mystery of Amelia Earhart

Amelia Earhart wanted to be the first woman to fly around the world. She and her guide, Fred Noonan, planned to fly east from Florida, with many stops around the globe, before returning to the United States. ●

Now they were in New Guinea with 29,000 miles behind them. There were 7,000 miles to go. First, they would fly to tiny Howland Island in the Pacific Ocean. Next, they would fly to Hawaii. Last, they would land in California. ●

Amelia and Fred took off from New Guinea on July 2, 1937. Howland is about 2,500 miles away. It would take them about 20 hours to get there. Meanwhile, the U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Itasca* was at Howland waiting for them. ● But the weather was bad, and so were the radio signals. The next morning, the *Itasca* got a radio transmission from Amelia: “We must be on you but cannot see you . . . gas is running low.”

An hour later, she reported where she was. That was the last time she was heard from. The plane had disappeared.

President Roosevelt ordered a full search, but no trace of Amelia, Fred, or the airplane was ever found. What happened to them remains a mystery. ●

## Strategy

Biographies and books about historical events are almost always written in sequence. What do you think you will read about in the next paragraph?

**Skill** What clue words show the sequence of events in this paragraph?

**Skill** The word *meanwhile* signals that two events are happening at the same time. What two events are happening here?

**Strategy** Why does sequence work well as the structure for this article?