

# The World's First Black Female Pilot

## Aeronautics

LIRE & COMPRENDRE = comprendre la description d'événements dans des textes rédigés dans une langue courante ou relative à mon environnement de travail.

A2

Bessie Coleman, better known as Queen Bess, was America's first black woman pilot. She was born in Texas in 1892, into a world of extreme poverty and deepening racial discrimination. Her dream was to "amount to something one day." .../... Working as a manicurist in a Chicago barbershop, she read about World War I pilots. She decided that she wanted to become a pilot. But she was met with the reaction: "You, a Negro and a woman. You must be joking." Undeterred, Bessie sought the advice of a valued customer in the barbershop. "Go to France," he said. "The French are much more accepting of both women and blacks - but first learn the language." That same day, Bessie began taking French lessons. A few months later, she sailed for France and signed up with an aviation school. Her training included everything from baked turns and looping-the-loop to airplane maintenance. In 1921, she became the first black woman to earn a pilot's license. Back in the United States, an African-American woman pilot was big news. .../... Bessie's future never looked brighter. She managed to buy an old Curtis Jenny. .../... She was heading for a performance in Los Angeles when the engine stalled; she crashed onto the street below, was knocked unconscious, broke one leg, and fractured several ribs. .../... She sent a telegram to the local newspaper: "AS SOON AS I CAN WALK, I'M GOING TO FLY!" Seven months later, she was back in a borrowed plane. .../... Bessie loved flying and accepted its risks, but her real ambition was to open a flight school. Sadly, she didn't live to see her dream realized. In 1926, her old, run-down plane went into a spin. Bessie was thrown out of her seat and fell to her death. .../... With her pluck and determination, Bessie Coleman had set an example for many black people. Shortly thereafter, the Bessie Coleman Aero Club in Los Angeles became a reality, introducing young blacks to the world of aviation. Among those inspired by Bessie was Dr. Mae Jemison, the first female African-American astronaut.

Source = Roxie Munro, [30 people who changed the world](#)

~ Avant de débiter, traduisez le titre et réfléchissez au contenu possible du texte.

~ Au fil de la lecture du texte, repérez les mots ou expressions en lien avec ces éléments = surnom - nationalité - métiers (2) - école/formation avant le premier vol (3) - principale réussite - premier avion - rêve et ambition - cause de la mort (3) - réaction des gens à sa mort - hommage

~ Donnez les formes ( Base Verbale / Prétérit ) des verbes irréguliers = savoir, connaître - être - porter, supporter - combattre - lire - devenir - rencontrer - chercher - aller - dire - apprendre - commencer - prendre - montrer - acheter - casser - avoir - envoyer - voler - voir - jeter - tomber - payer - établir

~ Trouvez dans le texte les équivalents de ces phrases = 1/ Bessie grew up as an unlucky poor girl. 2/ She asked a client to help her make a decision. 3/ In the 1910s, American people were more racist and sexist than French people. 4/ She started learning the French language. 5/ Her achievement made American people very happy. 6/ Her life was absolutely perfect from the moment she became a pilot. 7/ Her engine broke, she had an accident and she got hurt. 8/ She became a role model and an inspirational person.

~ Répondez aux questions sur le texte = 1/ How did she decide to become a pilot? 2/ Did people around her agree with her decision? 3/ What did she do to become a pilot? 4/ How long did it take her to fly again after her accident? 5/ How did she help young black people?

~ Traduisez cette citation de Bessie Coleman = "I decided blacks should not have to experience the difficulties I had faced, so I decided to open a flying school and teach other black women to fly."

