Bright Path Sped







13 STUDENT PAGES

BESSIE COLEMAN BIOGRAPHY

Readings, timeline, cut and paste

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This is a fillable PDF

- Open it in a PDF reader (Adobe Acrobat Reader, Preview, or your browser), click into a line or a box, type, and Save As.
- The name line, every answer box, every ruled work box and every check box on the student pages are type-in fields, and so are the tracker and family page. You can also print any page and write by hand.
- It works offline. No account, no subscription, no internet connection needed after you download it.

Print at 100 percent

Turn off fit to page and shrink to fit so the ruled lines stay 0.34 inch apart. Every student page is black and white inside a colored border, so it still reads when copied in black and white.

Student work

A filled-in tracker carries a real student's name. Keep it in the data folder, and use a first name only on any page that leaves your hands.

Not affiliated

This resource is not affiliated with or endorsed by Bessie Coleman, her family or estate. It is an original set of readings and activities written for this file.

Using the answer keys

The answer keys are at the back, after the student pages. Pull them out before you copy the student pages for the class, and keep them with your lesson plans.

Need help?

If a field will not behave or a page will not print the way you expect, use Ask a Question on the product page. Every question is read, and a fix ships as a free update.

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PREVIEW

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My name _____ Date _____

Words to Know



Write the letter of each meaning.

1	stunt		A	a show where pilots fly planes for a crowd
2	flight school		B	a person who flies an airplane
3	publisher		C	a person who prints and sells newspapers or books
4	pilot		D	a school where people learn to fly
5	determined		E	not giving up, even when something is hard
6	air show		F	a paper that says you are allowed to do something
7	segregation		G	a hard, daring trick, such as a loop in the air
8	license		H	keeping people apart by race, in places such as schools and shows

Use two of the words in one sentence about Bessie Coleman.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____



Reading 1: The Short Read



Read the story. Then write the main idea.

1892 to 1926

Bessie Coleman was a pilot. She was born on January 26, 1892, in Atlanta, Texas. She had twelve brothers and sisters. Bessie loved to read and she loved math. She wanted to fly planes. But no flight school in the United States would teach her. She was Black, and she was a woman. So Bessie sailed to France. She learned to fly there. In 1921, she earned her pilot license. She was the first African American woman to do that. Then she flew in air shows. Crowds called her Queen Bess. Bessie died in a plane accident on April 30, 1926. She was 34.

Main idea: What is this reading mostly about?

Check what you read. Write the letter in the box.

1. What did Bessie Coleman want to be?
   - **A** A teacher
   - **B** A pilot
   - **C** A nurse

2. Where did Bessie learn to fly?
   - **A** In France
   - **B** In Texas
   - **C** In Chicago

3. What did crowds call Bessie?
   - **A** Captain Bess
   - **B** Queen Bess
   - **C** Lady Wings

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Shed

My name _____ Date _____



Reading 2B: A Dream of Flying

Read the story. Then write the main idea and why it mattered.

about 1915 to 1921

In Chicago, Bessie heard stories about airplanes. A brother came home from World War I and told her that women in France were learning to fly. Bessie made up her mind to become a pilot. In those days, many people thought women could not fly. But no flight school in the United States would let her in, because she was Black and because she was a woman. Robert Abbott, who printed a Black newspaper called the Chicago Defender, told her to try France. Bessie took a French class and saved her money. In November 1920, she sailed to France and went to a flight school there. The lessons were hard, but she kept going. On June 15, 1921, she earned her pilot license. She was the first African American woman to earn one.

Main idea: What is this reading mostly about?

Why it mattered: Why is this important to her story?

Check what you read. Write the letter in the box.

1. Why did Bessie go to France?
   - **A** No flight school in the United States would teach her
   - **B** She wanted to visit her brother
   - **C** Her school in Oklahoma closed

2. What did Bessie earn on June 15, 1921?
   - **A** A college degree
   - **B** A pilot license
   - **C** A newspaper job

PREVIEW

Preview - Print Page Only

My name _____ Date _____

Timeline: Dates



Write the date for each event.

1921	1892	1926	1920	1922	About 1915

Pick each date from the bank. Use the readings to help you.

1. First Air Show
2. Born in Texas
3. Pilot License
4. Plane Accident
5. Moves to Chicago
6. Sails to France

Which event happened because of an earlier one? Explain.

PREVIEW

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My name _____ Date _____

How Did She?



Answer each question in a full sentence.

Use facts from the readings. Start your answer with She.

1. How did Bessie help her family when she was young?

2. How did Bessie get to France?

3. How did Bessie earn her pilot license?

4. How did Bessie show that she was determined?

5. How did Bessie stand up for fairness?

PREVIEW

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My name _____ Date _____

Cut and Paste 2



Cut out the six pieces. Paste each one under the right place.

Paste each piece under the place where it happened. The readings can help you.

In Texas and Chicago	
In France	
Back in the U.S.	

Cut on the dashed lines: six pieces, one cut across and two down.

Flew loops and figure eights in air shows.	Picked cotton and went to a one-room school.	Studied at a flight school.
Gave talks about flying.	Worked in Chicago and saved money.	Learned to fly and earned a pilot license.

Which one was hardest to place? Why?

PREVIEW

My name _____ Date _____

Exit Tickets



Answer the exit tickets before you leave.

Each ticket takes about two minutes. Your teacher may collect them at the door.

1. One thing I learned about Bessie Coleman today is...

2. Why did Bessie go to France? Use one fact from the readings.

3. One question I still have about Bessie is...

4. My favorite page was ___ because ___.

PREVIEW

Answer Key: Sorts and Written Answers

The two cut-and-paste mats, cause and effect (page 10) and How Did She? (page 11). Written answers are samples, not the only right answers.

Cut and Paste 1 page 13

Piece (row, column)	Box
r1 c1: She earns her pilot license.	Fourth
r1 c2: Bessie is born in Atlanta, …	First
r1 c3: Bessie dies in a plane …	Sixth
r2 c1: She sails to France to …	Third
r2 c2: She flies in her first …	Fifth
r2 c3: She moves to Chicago, Illinois.	Second

Cut and Paste 2 page 14

Piece (row, column)	Box
r1 c1: Flew loops and figure eights …	Back in the U.S.
r1 c2: Picked cotton and went to …	In Texas and Chicago
r1 c3: Studied at a flight school.	In France
r2 c1: Gave talks about flying.	Back in the U.S.
r2 c2: Worked in Chicago and saved …	In Texas and Chicago
r2 c3: Learned to fly and earned …	In France

Reading the sort keys

Read each strip left to right, top row first. On Cut and Paste 1 the boxes are first to sixth, so the box is the event's place in time. Cut and Paste 2 sorts by place.

Cause and Effect page 10

#	What happened (printed)	A good answer says
1	A brother told Bessie that women in France were learning to fly.	Bessie made up her mind to become a pilot.
2	No flight school in the United States would teach Bessie.	She learned French, saved her money and sailed to France to learn to fly.
3	Bessie finished her flight school lessons in France.	She earned her pilot license on June 15, 1921.
4	Bessie flew loops and figure eights in air shows.	Crowds cheered, and the newspapers called her Queen Bess.

How Did She?

#	Starts with	A good answer includes
1	How did Bessie help her family …	She picked cotton in the fields and washed clothes for other families.
2	How did Bessie get to France?	She sailed there in November 1920, after she saved her money and learned French.
3	How did Bessie earn her pilot …	She went to a flight school in France and earned her license on June 15, 1921.
4	How did Bessie show that she …	Open answer. Look for a fact from the readings, such as that she learned French and went to France when no flight school in the United States would teach her.
5	How did Bessie stand up for …	She would not perform at shows where Black people were kept out or sent in through a different gate.

Write About Bessie (page 12), Exit Tickets (page 16)

- **Finish the sentences:** accept any ending that is true to the readings, such as "Bessie Coleman wanted to fly planes."
- **The paragraph:** look for a topic sentence, two facts from the readings and a reason. A blank is not tried yet, never wrong.
- **Exit tickets:** a fact from the readings, a reason Bessie went to France, a real question and a favorite page with a reason.

PREVIEW

Riley's Tracker (Invented Student)

Riley P. is invented; nothing on this page describes a real student. The blank tracker is on page 19.

Student: Riley P. (an invented student)

Teacher: Ms. Ellis (invented)

Month: November

Page	Page type and set	Items	Right	Date	Notes
4	Words to Know	8	6	11/3	Mixed up license and publisher
5	Reading 1: The Short Read	3	3	11/4	-
6	Reading 2A: Growing Up in Texas	2	2	11/5	-
7	Reading 2B: A Dream of Flying	2	1	11/6	Missed why she went to France
8	Reading 2C: Queen Bess	2	-	-	-
9	Timeline: Dates	6	5	11/7	Swapped two dates
13	Cut and Paste 1	6	-	-	-
14	Cut and Paste 2	6	-	-	-
15	Quiz	6	5	11/10	Missed the order question

PREVIEW

How to read it

Riley P. has done **6 of 9** scored pages and got **22 of 27** items right with no prompt. **2** pages were all right and **4** carry a note. Every number comes from the table.

What the table points to

The lowest page is Reading 2B: A Dream of Flying (1 of 2). That is where the next practice goes. The 3 pages left blank are not tried yet, never wrong.

Starters and Notes

17 starters in 6 groups. Each one is a frame with a blank: the number comes off the tracker or the page itself, never from memory.

Student sentence starters

Bessie Coleman was a pilot who ____.

Bessie went to France because ____.

She was determined because ____.

One fact that proves my idea is ____.

Feedback to a student: main idea

You named what happened. Now tell me why it mattered: what changed because of it?

You gave a main idea. Which sentence in the reading shows it?

Feedback to a student: how and why

You wrote what she did. Now tell me how she did it, using a fact from the reading.

Your fact is true. Now explain why it answers the question.

Progress note starters

Wrote the main idea for ___ of ___ readings without a prompt, on ___ (date).

Put ___ of ___ events in order; used the timeline / a verbal prompt / a model.

Matched ___ of ___ words on Words to Know on ___ (date).

Family note starters

This week we read about Bessie Coleman, first a short read and then the full story.

At home, ask: why did Bessie go to France?

The home page for this week is in the folder; please send it back on ___.

Questions to ask while a student works

What happened? When did it happen?

Which sentence in the reading tells you that?

How could you check your answer another way?

PREVIEW