Soaring Into History

A pilot with a famous name flies around the globe.

In 1937, Amelia Earhart attempted to become the first woman to fly around the world. She didn’t make it. Her plane disappeared over the Pacific Ocean, and she was never heard from again.

This summer, another woman did what Earhart had failed to do. Her name? Believe it or not, it’s Amelia Earhart! At 31, she became the youngest female pilot to circle the globe.

The modern-day Earhart isn’t related to the legendary pilot, but she feels a special connection to her. “My parents gave me the name because they wanted to inspire me to be adventurous,” Earhart says.

Her parents’ plan worked. After a year and a half of planning, Earhart took off from Oakland, California, on June 26. Along with co-pilot Shane Jordan, she made 16 stops in 16 days (see map on page 8). Her record-setting journey ended back in Oakland on July 11.

Two days before her trip ended, Earhart flew over Howland Island in the Pacific Ocean. That’s where the original Earhart was planning to stop next when her plane disappeared. Today’s Earhart was proud to pass that point—and to finish the historic flight that her namesake did not.

“It was a grand adventure,” Earhart says. “I now have the feeling that I can do anything.”

Word to Know

namesake (NAYM-sayk) noun. someone whom another person is named after

We just wanted to inform others about the different struggles Braden has to go through.”