

Name _____

Bessie Coleman



Bessie Coleman was born on January 26, 1892 in Atlanta, Texas.. She was the tenth of thirteen children. She was born of mixed race, her parents were African American but her grandparents were Cherokee. At age eighteen she attended the Oklahoma Agricultural and Normal University but ran out of money and went home.

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She

accepted to the Caudron Brothers' School of Aviation in France in 1920. She got her international pilot's license on June 15, 1921 and was the first black woman and first Native American to earn an aviation pilot's license.

She returned to the US in September 1921 and was a media sensation. She performed at numerous air shows for the next five years. Coleman did many different air stunts and tricks with her plane and refused to speak anywhere that was segregated or discriminated against African Americans. She encouraged other African Americans to get their pilot's license. She toured the country giving flight lessons. Her nickname was "Brave Bessie."

Coleman was in Jacksonville, Florida on April 30, 1926. She had purchased a new plane but it was unsafe. The controls had jammed and the plane crashed, she died at age 34.



Name _____

Bessie Coleman

1. She was born on _____

in _____

2. Name what she is famous for



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3. She was the first _____

4. She died on _____