Amelia Earhart, An American Flying Pioneer

During World War I, Amelia worked in a hospital. She treated wounded soldiers. One of them was a pilot. “I wish I could fly in a plane,” Amelia told him.

When the war ended in 1918, Amelia was twenty-three years old. She still wanted to fly in a plane. Her father paid ten dollars for a ten-minute flight near their home. One short plane ride will be enough for Amelia! he thought.

But when the plane took off, Amelia’s heart raced. I’m floating in a completely different world! She thought. She knew she had to become a pilot.

After months of taking lessons, Amelia was ready to fly by herself. When she turned twenty-five, she bought her own small, bright yellow plane and called it the Canary.

One morning Amelia told her husband, “I’m going to fly across the Atlantic alone, George.” Amelia was never one to waste time. On the evening of May 20, 1932, she took off on her trip across the Atlantic. Flying in the star-filled night sky thrilled her. I cannot fail! she thought.

Yet a few hours later, she was in trouble. First, an important instrument stopped working. Then, she flew into a horrible storm. Part of the plane shook violently and flames shot out of the engine. Ice formed on the wings, and gasoline leaked from a fuel tank.

The next day, Amelia landed in a pasture in a small town in northern Ireland. She was the first woman to pilot a plane across the Atlantic Ocean. She had flown 2,026 miles in fourteen hours and fifty-four minutes! By crossing the Atlantic in the shortest time ever, she broke a world record.
Name ___________________________ Date __________

Answer the questions. You may reread parts of the passage to help you.

1. When did Amelia know she had to become a pilot?
   - during a ten-minute flight in a plane
   - before World War I ended
   - after taking flying lessons
   - while talking to a pilot

2. What is the meaning of the word *treated* as used in the sentence below?

   She treated wounded soldiers.

   - talked about something carefully
   - coated with a special paint
   - paid someone’s bill
   - gave medical aid

3. Amelia was the first woman to do what?
   - fly across the Atlantic
   - buy her own plane
   - take flying lessons
   - want to be a pilot

4. With which statement would the author MOST LIKELY agree?
   - Amelia was fearful.
   - Amelia was careless.
   - Amelia was adventurous.
   - Amelia was a good person.

5. Do you think Amelia was brave? Why or why not? Use details from the passage to support your answer. Write your response on another sheet of paper.