

## POSTTEST, continued

**DIRECTIONS:** Read the next two selections. Then, read each question that follows them. On your separate answer sheet, mark the circle of your answer to each question.

*Today, hundreds of people fly across the Atlantic Ocean every day. But this was not always the case. Seventy-five years ago, the only way to travel between the United States and Europe was by boat. It took airplane designers and a brave pilot to change the way people traveled across the ocean. The pilot's name was Charles Lindbergh.*



Born February 4, 1902, Charles Augustus Lindbergh grew up on a farm in Minnesota. Even as a child, he had an excellent ability with machines. His parents encouraged him to attend college to make the most of his talent. While studying at the University of Wisconsin, Lindbergh developed a strong interest in airplanes. After two years, he left college to attend the Lincoln Flight School in Nebraska. When he graduated, he was hired to fly mail between St. Louis and Chicago. In his spare time, he performed dangerous airplane stunts at county fairs around the United States. Then, in 1924, Lindbergh joined the army to train as an Air Service pilot. When he graduated the next year, he was named the best pilot in the class.

In 1919, a hotel owner named Raymond Ortig offered \$25,000 to the first person who could fly nonstop from New York to Paris. Several pilots had tried and failed. When Charles Lindbergh read about the prize, he convinced nine businessmen from St. Louis to help him buy a special plane. To thank them for their support, he named the plane

*The Spirit of St. Louis.* On May 20, 1927, Lindbergh took off from Roosevelt Field near New York City and headed for Paris. Thirty-three hours and 3,600 miles later, he became the first pilot in history to successfully complete a solo, nonstop flight across the Atlantic Ocean. In front of thousands of cheering fans, he proudly collected his prize. The story made the front page of newspapers all around the world, and "Lucky Lindy" became an instant hero.

In the years that followed, Lindbergh took his plane on a tour of the United States to encourage what he called "airmindedness." At the request of the government, he also flew to various Latin-American countries to spread good will. While working in Mexico, Lindbergh met Anne Spencer Morrow, the daughter of the American ambassador to Mexico. Charles taught Anne to fly, and they were soon married. As pilot and copilot, they traveled the world together, charting new routes for airlines.

In 1953, having suffered the kidnapping of their son, the Lindberghs moved to Hawaii to escape curious reporters. There, Charles published his book, *The Spirit of Saint Louis*, which described the trans-Atlantic flight that had made him a household name. The next year, the book won the Pulitzer Prize.

Lindbergh spent his last years speaking to the public, inventing, and writing. Having witnessed the awkward planes of the past develop into the sleek jets of the day, he never lost his interest in flying. Although he was fascinated by new inventions, Lindbergh was also concerned about their effect on the environment. In his speeches and articles, he tried to convince people that nothing was more important than protecting the earth, the water, and the air we breathe.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Charles Lindbergh and the *Spirit of St. Louis*

1: Why do you think Charles Lindbergh was seen as a worldwide hero after successfully flying solo, nonstop across the Atlantic Ocean?

2: Why do you think his transatlantic flight was so significant in the field of aviation and in aviation history?

3: Many argue that Lindbergh's flight is the greatest single achievement of the 20th century. do you agree? Why or why not? What other events might also be considered the single greatest achievement?