

MATH ACTIVITY

## Determining Miles Per Hour

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

**DESCRIPTION:** From the Wright Brothers' first powered flight to the first commercial flights, the first part of the 1900s was a time of aviation breakthroughs. In the 1920s and '30s, the exploits of aviation pioneers such as Charles Lindbergh, Amelia Earhart, and Beryl Markham helped popularize air travel for the masses.

**BACKGROUND:** To calculate average miles per hour, divide the distance traveled by the time. Remember to translate minutes into decimals.

**ACTIVITY:** Use the information below to calculate miles per hour for each aviator's transatlantic flight.

- In 1927 Charles Lindbergh made the first nonstop transatlantic flight when he flew 3,610 miles from New York City to Paris in 33 hours and 32 minutes.
  - Five years later, in 1932, Amelia Earhart became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean when flew 2,206 miles from Harbor Grace, Newfoundland, to Londonderry, Ireland, in 14 hours and 56 minutes.
  - Beryl Markham became the first woman to fly westward nonstop across the Atlantic Ocean when she flew 2,683 miles from London, England, to Sydney, Nova Scotia, in 24 hours and 25 minutes. Unlike the others, Markham's flight traveled east to west against the wind.
1. What was Charles Lindbergh's average speed on his transatlantic flight?
  2. Which aviator traveled at a faster speed—Amelia Earhart or Beryl Markham?
  3. Which aviator averaged the fastest speed? the slowest?
  4. **Think about it.** How might Markham's speed have changed had she been traveling with the wind instead of against it?