



*Amy Johnson was a famous pilot during the 1930s.*

Amy Johnson was born on 1st July 1903. As a young woman she had an ambition to fly aeroplanes. She had a job as a secretary but in her spare time she learnt how to fly. When she was twenty-six years old she gained her licence as a pilot.

Amy was lucky because her father helped her to buy a second-hand aeroplane. She was very excited when she bought an aeroplane called a Gipsy Moth. She named her aeroplane 'Jason'! In 1930 she flew Jason all on her own from England to Australia. It took her nineteen days to make the journey from Croydon to Darwin, a distance of eleven thousand miles, or eighteen thousand kilometres. When she arrived in Australia she was welcomed by crowds of people.

After her success in flying to Australia, Amy became a famous celebrity all over the world. She went on to make many record-breaking flights.

The Second World War broke out in September 1939. In 1940, Amy was able to join the Air Transport Auxiliary. Her job was to deliver aeroplanes from the factories where they were made to the airfields from which they would fly into combat.

During the delivery of an aircraft from Blackpool to Oxford on 5th January 1941, the weather conditions became very poor. Amy was unable to see the ground to find her route. She bailed out of the aircraft over the Thames Estuary and was drowned.

*If you would like to see Amy Johnson's aeroplane, 'Jason', it is on display in the Flight Gallery at the Science Museum in London.*