

Torben Kuhlmann

Teacher
Resource
Guide

EARHART

The Incredible Flight of a Field Mouse Around the World



North
South

Teacher Resource Guide

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by Torben Kuhlmann

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About the Book

Earhart: The Incredible Flight of a Field Mouse Around the World
By Torben Kuhlmann, translated by David Henry Wilson

For the field mice, the boundary of the garden is the edge of the world. But one little field mouse is determined to discover the wide world beyond the burrow—even if she isn't supposed to fly. With her knack for engineering and help from an experienced mouse aviator, she defies the other field mice and sets off on a daring journey. Could it be that she inspired Amelia Earhart's pioneering aviation career?

The Creators

Torben Kuhlmann lives and works in Hamburg as a freelance children's author and illustrator. He studied illustration and communications design at the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences. He wrote and illustrated his first picture book, *Lindbergh: The Tale of a Flying Mouse*, in 2012 as his final thesis, and it was published in 2014 by NorthSouth. It quickly became a bestseller and has been translated into more than 30 languages. Three more Mouse Adventures followed and were equally successful, including 2019 Batchelder honor and ALA Notable Book *Edison*. The publication of *Earhart*, the fifth book, marks the tenth anniversary of the series. However, a few mouse-free books have also crept into the repertoire during the last ten years, including *Moletown*, *The Clown Said No*, and *The Gray City*.



David Henry Wilson, born in London, is a playwright, novelist, children's book author, and translator. His plays have been produced in many well-known theaters in Great Britain as well as abroad, and his children's books—especially the Jeremy James series—have been translated into many languages. His translations from French and German cover many subjects, ranging from literary theory, art, travel, and general culture to children's novels and picture books.

The Curriculum Writer

This guide was created by Marcie Colleen, a former teacher with a BA in English Education from Oswego State and a Master's in Educational Theater from New York University. In addition to creating curriculum guides for children's books, Marcie can often be found writing books of her own at home in San Diego, California. Visit her at www.thisismarciecolleen.com.

Copyright Information

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Mouse Adventures

For more information on the Mouse Adventures and to access teacher guides for the other books in the series, please visit www.themouseadventures.com.





Table of Contents

BEFORE READING: 5

EXPLORING NONFICTION: 6

Vocabulary: 8

Comprehension: 9

Character Study: 9

Research Project: 11

Fiction vs. Nonfiction: 12

AFTER READING: 13

Writing Activity: 13

HISTORY CONNECTION: 15

Amelia Earhart and Aviation: 15

The Sky's the Limit: 15

Follow Your Dreams: 16

The Power of Curiosity: 17

SCIENCE CONNECTION : 18

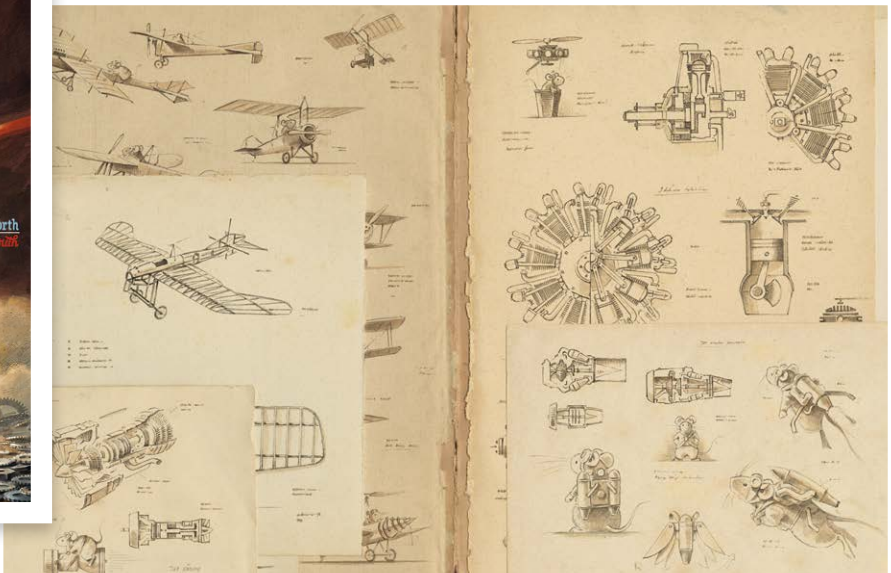
The Engineering Design Method: 18

Build an Airplane: 19



Before Reading

- The title of this book mentions “Earhart” as in Amelia Earhart. What do you already know about Amelia Earhart? Do a brief search and report back with one fact.
- Take a close look at the cover illustration of *Earhart: The Incredible Flight of a Field Mouse Around the World*. What do you see? Describe the person. How do you think she feels? Describe the mouse. How do you think the mouse feels? Can you guess what the story might be about? What clues can you find on the cover to support your prediction?
- Read the text on the back of the book. What do you learn about the book from this blurb? What questions does it raise about the book?
- Using all this information, can you make any predictions about what might happen in the book?
- Describe the images on the endpapers. How do the images connect to the work of Amelia Earhart?
- Can you predict the time period for this story? Use evidence from the text and the images to support your answer.



Exploring Nonfiction

While reading *Earhart: The Incredible Flight of a Field Mouse Around the World* take notes in the chart (pg. 7):

- Things I Learned
- Questions I Have

Pause frequently to add notes to the columns. These columns can either be filled in individually or worked on as a class.

- Once you have finished reading, participate in a class discussion and share the **Questions I Have** column.
 - Were any of these questions answered as the story went along?
 - If so, locate the answer within the text.
 - Record the answer next to the question in a third column labelled **Answers I Found**.
- For all remaining questions in the **Questions I Have** column that have yet to be answered, take steps to find answers.
 - Find answers to your questions through further research, either on the Internet or in a book.
 - Record all answers in the **Answers I Found** column.
- Take a close look at your research.
 - What was the most challenging part of finding answers?
 - Was it easier to find answers on the Internet or in a book?
 - How can you determine whether to trust a source?
 - What tips would you give someone about research?

Extension:

Design and illustrate a poster representing a Fact, Question, and researched Answer based on *Earhart: The Incredible Flight of a Field Mouse Around the World* and display it within the classroom.





The Things I Learned (Facts)	Questions I Have	Answers I Found



Vocabulary

Earhart: The Incredible Flight of a Field Mouse Around the World contains many words which may be new to you. Choose 10 words that are new to you and use context clues from both the text and illustrations to infer their meanings. Write the words and their meanings on a separate piece of paper.

burrows	circumstances	prematurely	passionate
origin	phonograph	nostalgically	seized
mounted	astonishment	speculated	interference
mystified	encounters	cylinders	crescendo
gawp	semicircular	silhouette	postmark
genuinely	ignition	compass	prospect
fragments	altitude	turbulent	spectators
stowed	apprehension	liberty	gadgets
delicacies	consisted	petrified	frequency
involuntarily	concealed	grandstand	devastated
shaft	figments of imagination	rummaged	clamber
reckless	corrugated	distorted	motif

Additional Exploration:

- While you read, look carefully for words you do not know. As soon as you come across a new vocabulary word, jot it down.
- Look up the unknown word in the dictionary. Read the definition.
- Come up with a way to remember what the word means. Create a physical action that symbolizes the word and helps you remember it.

Comprehension Questions

- 1) As the book begins, Humphrey the mouse ventures underground to a brightly lit cavern. Describe this underground world in your own words.
- 2) What causes the little field mouse to become curious about the world beyond her vegetable garden?
- 3) Why does the field mouse call her adventure “well-planned”?
- 4) What three essential bits of information does the field mouse learn from the raccoon in the junkyard?
- 5) The pilot mouse says, “Most humans only see what they want to see anyway.” Explain, in your own words, what he means by this. Use evidence from the book to support your answer.
- 6) Who do you think the “young human who had also come to the air show and announced that she was going to fly around the world” was? Why do you think the field mouse was delighted to know someone else shared the same dream?
- 7) How do the other field mice react to the airplane and the dream of flying?
- 8) How does the field mouse trick the others into thinking she is working on their digger and instead escape into the sky?
- 9) What danger does the field mouse face when trying to fly across the Pacific Ocean? How is the field mouse able to continue her journey and accomplish her goal?
- 10) What does the field mouse say the pilot mouse can do for her? Why might this be important advice?

Character Study

How a character acts and what a character says can tell readers a lot about who the character is.

Read *Earhart: The Incredible Flight of a Field Mouse Around the World* paying close attention to the character of the field mouse. Scene by scene, record your thoughts, in the chart on page 10.



What she does	Why do you think she does this?	How would you describe her?	What might she say?
Example: Designing a new digger for the other field mice.	It's her job.	Hardworking, smart, an engineer.	"It's my duty as a field mouse to use my skills for the digging effort."

After gathering information regarding the field mouse's character, use the scenarios below to write a new scene for *Earhart*. What would she do and say in one of the following situations?

- The field mouse is craving more cheese from the shop in New York.
- The field mouse is asked to help plan Amelia Earhart's flight around the world.
- The field mouse receives a letter that the pilot mouse took her advice and left the circus.

Research Project

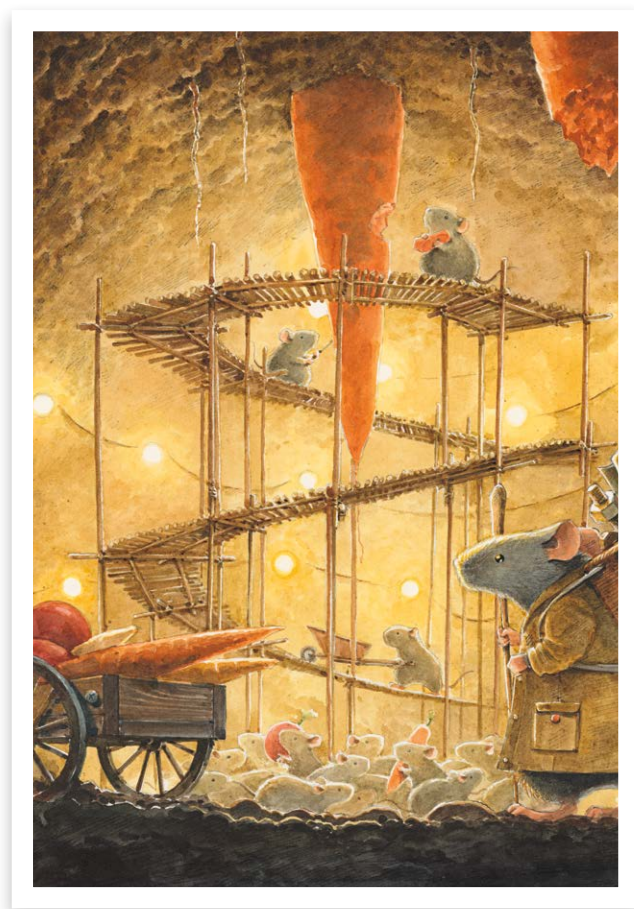
The field mouse in *Earhart* is told by the others, "we field mice are diggers, not fliers."

Research facts about field mice.

Information gathered should include:

- Physical description
- Diet and food sources
- Habitat preference
- Behavior and communication
- Impact on ecosystems
- Threats or predators
- A picture of a field mouse
- 3 words that describe field mice
- 3 interesting facts about field mice

Once research is done, create a poster visual or booklet with all the information you gathered.



Fiction vs. Nonfiction

Compare the facts researched about field mice above (nonfiction) to the field mouse in *Earhart* (fiction).

As a class, create a T-chart of comparisons.

Nonfiction	Fiction
Field mice chirp / squeak	Field mouse talks
Field mice dig	Field mouse has a dream of flying



After Reading

Summarize what the book was about using the chart on page 14.

- Describe, in your own words, the field mouse's life before and after her adventure.
- What did the mouse want more than anything? (What was her main goal?)
- At first, the field mouse is content building a digging machine. But what changes her focus?
- How do the others treat the field mouse and her new focus?

Beginning	Middle	End
Introduce characters: What did the mouse want more than anything? (What was her main goal?)	Working to solve the conflict. What were the many things she tried before finding a successful solution?	Resolution. Did the mouse end up getting what she wanted? How was she successful?
	When things got tough, what did the mouse do to keep going?	The ending (How things have changed...)
Introduce conflict: What was the problem standing in her way?	The Climax: When everything changes or becomes out of control / heightened...	What is the theme of this story?

Writing Activity

Imagine you are the field mouse and write a journal entry about your most exciting day on your journey. Then write a journal entry about your most disappointing day on your journey.

Beginning	Middle	End

History Connection



Amelia Earhart and Aviation

Who was Amelia Earhart?

Draw an outline of a human figure on a large piece of paper to represent Amelia Earhart.

Read the backmatter in the book and write down some facts about Amelia Earhart inside the outline. Outside the outline write any questions you still have and then do some research to answer those questions.

Step into History

Imagine that you are an eyewitness to one of the field mouse's daring adventures.

Create a newspaper article about the flight of the field mouse, including how Amelia Earhart influenced the adventure.

The Sky's the Limit

Female Firsts Through History

Amelia Earhart was a daring woman who went on to be a pioneer in aviation as the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean. But did you know that history is filled with daring women in many different fields?

Type the phrase "*first woman to*" into a search engine and see how many pioneers you can find.

Write a thank you letter to one of these women.
How has her accomplishment influenced your life?



Follow your Dreams

The field mouse was a daring dreamer who went after what she wanted in life. Note the many times in the book that she said she wanted something.

Once she stated what she wanted, she took the necessary steps to achieve her goal. Use a chart like the one below to make note of the different achievements the field mouse made throughout the book.

The dream	The steps	The result
Ex. She was curious to find out if lions really existed and if they did, where they could be found.	She asked Humphrey about the stamp and went with him to the post office where they saw a map.	She learned that lions live in Africa.

Do you have any dreams that you want to accomplish? Create a similar chart and fill it in with the steps you might take to achieve your goal.

The Power of Curiosity

What is curiosity?

- Curiosity is the desire to learn or know more about something. It's an eagerness to explore, discover, and figure things out.

Are there things that you are interested in but don't know much about?

- What interests did the field mouse have?
- What interests did Amelia Earhart have?

What do you wonder about? What are you curious about?

- What did the field mouse wonder about?
- What did Amelia Earhart wonder about?

Curiosity needs freedom to explore ideas through many means and tools. What tools and opportunities did the field mouse use in her quest for discovery? Use specific examples from the text to support your answer.

After better understanding curiosity, answer the following:

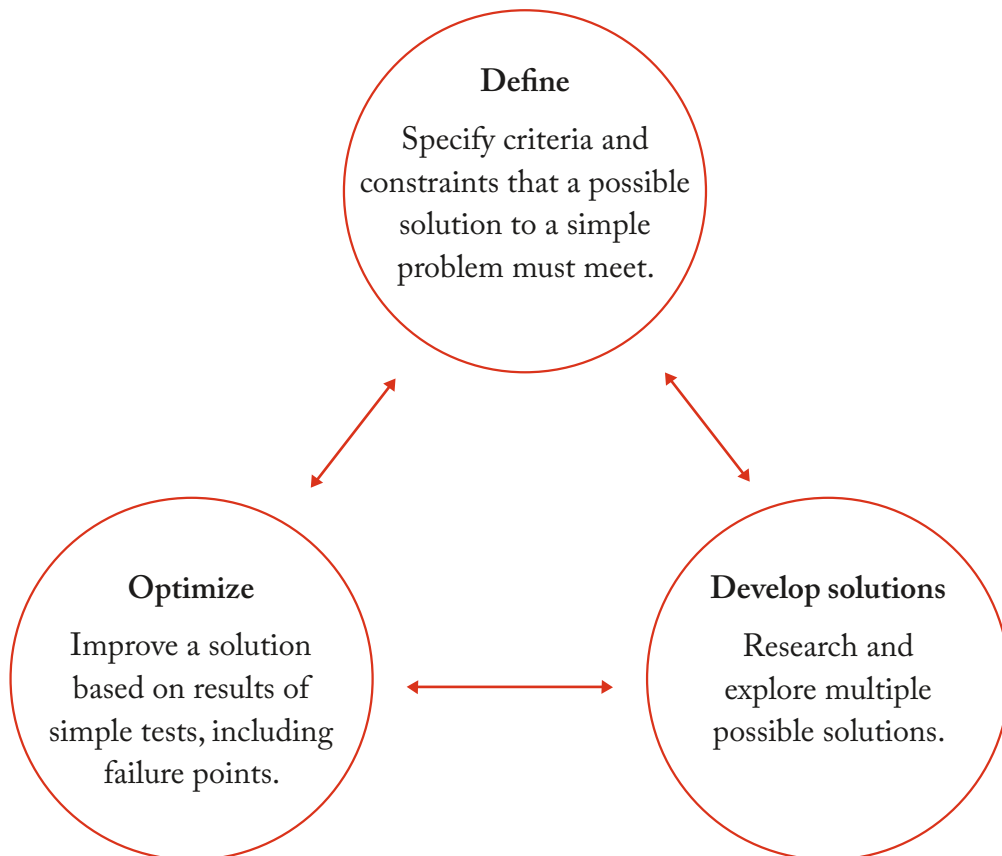
- What is the value of curiosity?
- Why is curiosity so important to scientists and inventors?
- How does curiosity lead to more questions and discovery?



Science Connection

The Engineering Design Method

The Engineering Design Method is a process that engineers, scientists and inventors use to problem solve. Both the pilot mouse and the field mouse probably used this process when designing their flying machines.



- Describe how these three steps help with problem solving.
- What do you think would happen if you skipped a step?
- Why do you think there are two-way arrows between the circles denoting the different parts of the process?
- Can you find evidence that the pilot mouse and field mouse used many of these steps in *Earhart: The Incredible Flight of a Field Mouse Around the World*? How so? Use textual examples.

Build an Airplane

Step by Step Process to Design, Build, Test (and Retest!)

It's time to test out the Engineering Design Process as you problem solve a way to build an airplane that really works! A little imagination is going to go a long way here, too!

- You will be working to build an airplane that can really fly.
- Gather several craft items (paper, recycled materials, paperclips, stapler and staples, rubber bands, popsicle sticks, etc.)

Your airplane must:

- Be able to travel in the air from one point to another.
- Be a construction, not merely a folded piece of paper.

Create a Design Notebook for your airplane and carefully document your use of the Engineering Design Process throughout the process of building.

What is lift?

Before crafting your plane, test out the lift of your paper. The best type of paper to use is the thin sheets used in magazines.

Hold the short edge of the paper up to your mouth using both hands.

What do you think will happen if you blow hard across the top of the paper? Will it go down or up?

Most people would think the paper would go down and not lift up when they blow air across the top.

But this is not the case. Blowing faster-moving air above the sheet of paper lowered the air pressure above the paper. Now the air pressure below the paper is higher and creates lift. Lift does exactly what it sounds like; it lifts objects off the ground when everything is just right.



Once your airplane has been constructed, test it out. Did it work? If not, why? Make any necessary adjustments and retest. Did it work a second time? If it didn't work, head back to the drawing board like a real inventor.