

Name _____

Read the passage below.

Katherine Sui Fun Cheung

1. Katherine Sui Fun Cheung was born in China in 1904. At this time, most women were wives and mothers. Girls did not grow up to have adventures—but Katherine became the first Chinese American woman pilot in the United States.

2. Katherine moved to the United States in 1921 when she was seventeen. She studied music at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. One day, Katherine's father took her to an airfield to teach her to drive a car. Katherine liked driving, but she liked watching planes take off and land even more. She wanted to learn to fly but had to wait another ten years to do this.

3. Katherine soon decided to get married. She kept her own last name, which was something else girls did not do back then. She had two daughters with her husband, George Young. Then in 1932 her cousin invited Katherine to fly in a plane. Katherine loved flying. She took lessons with the Chinese Aeronautical Association and quickly earned her pilot's license. She was the first Chinese American woman licensed to fly a plane in the United States. She was one of only about 200 women in the country to have a pilot's license.

4. Though Katherine enjoyed flying, she loved acrobatics the most. She flew loops and barrel rolls, and learned to fly upside down. She performed at fairs and competed in races.

5. In 1935 the world's most famous female pilot, Amelia Earhart, invited Katherine to join a club. The Ninety-Nines were female pilots who encouraged women to learn to fly. After she joined the club, Katherine raced other famous pilots. She was not afraid to match her old plane against newer planes. She also studied and earned a license to fly larger planes.