

CHICKASAW  
*Heritage Series*



# ON TOP OF THE WORLD

PEARL CARTER SCOTT —  
AMERICA'S YOUNGEST PILOT

S E C O N D A R Y



## ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:

- Why is Pearl Carter Scott considered an important part of Oklahoma's aviation history?
- How did Oklahoma's most famous aviator, Wiley Post, and noted aviation enthusiast, Will Rogers, help and encourage Pearl Carter Scott?
- What characteristics did Pearl Carter Scott possess that make her a role model to young adults, even today?
- Why is Pearl Carter Scott considered an important figure in Chickasaw history?



## LEARNING GOALS/OBJECTIVES:

- To recognize Pearl Carter Scott as an important figure in the history of aviation, particularly in Oklahoma
- To demonstrate an understanding of the early history of aviation
- To recognize key people who contributed to the development of modern-day aviation



## **BACKGROUND:**

In 1929, Pearl Carter Scott became the youngest pilot in the United States when she took her first solo flight at the age of 13. Wiley Post, famous Oklahoma aviator from Maysville, gave Pearl her first flying lessons. She was one of only three people Wiley let fly his beloved plane, the Winnie Mae.

Pearl was born on December 9, 1915, in Marlow, Oklahoma. She was the second of three girls and also had a younger brother named George Carter, Jr. Pearl's father was a wealthy businessman. Her mother was an original enrollee of the Chickasaw Nation. Many of Pearl's descendants still reside in Ada, Oklahoma. Pearl did not follow the ways of many of the young girls of the time. Instead, she learned to drive when she was 11-years old and often accompanied her father to work. She also said she spent her whole childhood talking with adults. Pearl knew from the moment she first flew in a plane that she wanted to become a pilot, even though she lived during a time when many people thought women should only engage in traditionally feminine activities.

Pearl Carter Scott grew up during an exciting time in the growth of aviation in the United States. In 1903, two young brothers from Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, built and flew America's first plane and opened the doors to an exciting new type of transportation. Pearl did not follow the ways of many of the young girls of the time. Instead, she learned to drive when she was 11 years old and often accompanied her father to work. She also said she spent her whole childhood talking with adults.

In the 1920s, the Guggenheim family began promoting the idea of making passenger air travel possible, and in 1926, the first ticket ever sold for passenger air travel was sold by Western Air Express to Ben Redman, President of the Chamber of Commerce of Salt Lake City, Utah.

It was in 1925 that Oklahoma's Wiley Post from Maysville met Will Rogers, the famous speaker and entertainer from Claremore, Oklahoma. The men shared a love for aviation and became great friends. In 1927, Charles Lindbergh became the first person to fly a non-stop transcontinental flight when he flew his "Spirit of St. Louis" across the Atlantic in 33.5 hours, and in 1928, Amelia Earhart became the first female aviator to fly across the Atlantic. In 1933, in his plane, the Winnie Mae, Wiley Post became the first person to fly solo around the world. Wiley, with the help of engineers from B.F. Goodrich, developed a pressurized flight suit in 1934. He wore it on a flight for the first time on September 5, 1934. He flew to 40,000 feet. Sadly, in 1935, Post and Will Rogers were killed in a plane crash in Point Barrow, Alaska. In Oklahoma City, Will Rogers World Airport and Wiley Post Airport stand as tributes to two of Oklahoma's most famous aviators.

Mrs. Scott was inducted into the Oklahoma Aviation and Space Hall of Fame, the Chickasaw Hall of Fame and is a charter member of the National Museum of the American Indian at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.



## MATERIALS/RESOURCES:

1. DVD, “Pearl Carter Scott: On Top of the World” (documentary)
2. Book, *On Top of the World*
3. Graphic organizer, “Iconic Americans Video Notesheet”

## ACADEMIC VOCABULARY:

stunt pilot	barnstorming
Will Rogers	Dust Bowl
solo flight	aviator/aviatrix
Kitty Hawk	aviation
Wiley Post	mentor
Cessna	aerodynamics
Winnie Mae	gender roles



# LESSON PLAN

## ENGAGE: “Truth of Dare”

To begin the lesson on Pearl Carter Scott, teacher should ask students: Have you ever participated in a sport that led to injury (e.g. skateboarding, biking downhill fast, ice skating, football, gymnastics, diving)? What motivated you to engage in this activity in spite of the risk?

*The teacher should use the provided background information to introduce Pearl Carter Scott, a pioneer aviator and the youngest licensed pilot (age 13) in United States history.*

## EXPLORE:

By viewing the documentary film, *On Top of the World*, students will deepen their understanding of events in Pearl Carter Scott’s life and her importance to the Chickasaw Nation.

## Activity 1: “On Top of the World”

*View documentary, Pearl Carter Scott: On Top of the World. The teacher should distribute a copy of the graphic organizer to each student. Students should use the provided graphic organizer as a viewing guide while watching the documentary. At the conclusion of the viewing, students should be given the opportunity to react to the film using the discussion questions found at the end of this lesson plan.*

## EXPLAIN:

In this activity, students will create a timeline of Pearl Carter Scott’s life and historical events surrounding it.

## Activity 2: “The Changing Role of Women!”

- 1. Create a timeline of 10 important events in Pearl Carter Scott’s life and 10 events in American history that occurred during the same time period.*
- 2. As an exit ticket activity, the teacher may ask students to respond to the following prompt: Describe how Pearl’s life either reflected or rejected commonly held beliefs about the role of women in the early twentieth century.*



## **EXTEND:**

Utilizing a children's literature format, the teacher will lead students in the creation of a biographical picture book about Pearl Carter Scott, Wiley Post or Will Rogers.

### **Activity 3: "Never Give Up!"**

#### ***Procedures:***

1. Share several different biographical picture books with students to promote an understanding of the creative process and the elements that help make a children's book successful.
2. Divide class into groups of three to four students. Each group should select one of the aviators as the subject of their children's book.
3. Next, the groups should use graphic organizers to brainstorm ideas for the character, setting and conflict of their story.
4. Groups should create storyboards to plan the relationship between the illustrations and text.
5. Groups should then pitch their stories to their peers and use peer feedback to refine their final projects.
6. Time should be allowed for students to create illustrations, write the text of the story and make any needed revisions.
7. Finally, students should use a variety of methods to bind their books in an attractive manner and present their books to their peers.

## **EVALUATE:**

The essay on the changing role of women or the picture book about Pearl Carter Scott may serve as a summative assessment.



# ALIGNMENT TO OKLAHOMA ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR THE SOCIAL STUDIES

## CONTENT STANDARDS

OKH.5.7 Describe the impact of environmental conditions and human mismanagement of resources resulting in the Dust Bowl and the migration of the “Okies”, the national perceptions of Oklahomans, and the New Deal policies regarding conservation of natural resources.

OKH.5.8 Describe the contributions of Oklahomans including African-American jazz musicians, the political and social commentaries of Will Rogers and Woody Guthrie’s, Wiley Post’s aviation milestones, and the artwork of the Kiowa Six.

USH.4.1 Examine the economic, political, and social transformations between the World Wars.

USH.4.3 Analyze the impact of the New Deal in transforming the federal government’s role in domestic economic policies.

WG.5.5 Examine common characteristics of rural communities including the impact of the environment on location, the political, economic and cultural functions of rural communities, the types of transportation, communication and trade linkages among rural areas, and the impact of modern migration to urban centers.



## SOCIAL STUDIES PRACTICES

2.A.9-12.1 Develop, investigate and evaluate plausible answers to essential questions that reflect enduring understandings across time and all disciplines.

2.B.9-12.1 Use interdisciplinary lenses to gather and evaluate information regarding complex local, regional, and global problems; assess individual and collective actions taken to address such problems.

3.A.9-12.1 Gather, organize, and analyze various kinds of primary and secondary source evidence on related topics, evaluating the credibility of sources.

3.A.9-12.3 Develop questions about multiple historical and/or contemporary sources to pursue further inquiry and investigate additional sources.

3.A.9-12.6 Assess the significance and impact of individuals and groups throughout local, national, tribal, and world history, tracing the continuity of past events to the present.

4.A.9-12.1 Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, evaluating features such as author, date, and origin of information.

5.A.9-12.1 Compose narrative writing, when appropriate to a given purpose or task, citing evidence from informational texts.

5.B.9-12.3 Construct visual and/or multimedia presentations, using a variety of media forms to enhance understanding of findings and reasoning, for diverse audiences.



## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- 1. Why do you think flying appealed to Pearl Carter Scott?**
- 2. Why did some people think being a pilot was not appropriate for her age and gender?**
- 3. Why do you think Pearl chose to give up her flying career?**
- 4. Identify moments in Pearl's life where she exhibited courage and/or perseverance.**
- 5. Has there been a particular event in your life that has caused you to strengthen your character and to persevere? Explain.**



## ICONIC AMERICAN NOTE SHEET PEARL CARTER SCOTT (1915-2005)

As you watch the documentary, complete the graphic organizer below:

Aviation Accomplishments	Activism and Role Model for the Chickasaw Nation

Why do you think Pearl Carter Scott is considered an American Icon?





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P E A R L





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P E A R L





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P E A R L   &   F A M I L Y





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**E A R L Y   D A Y   P L A N E**  
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W I L E Y   P O S T   A I R P O R T  
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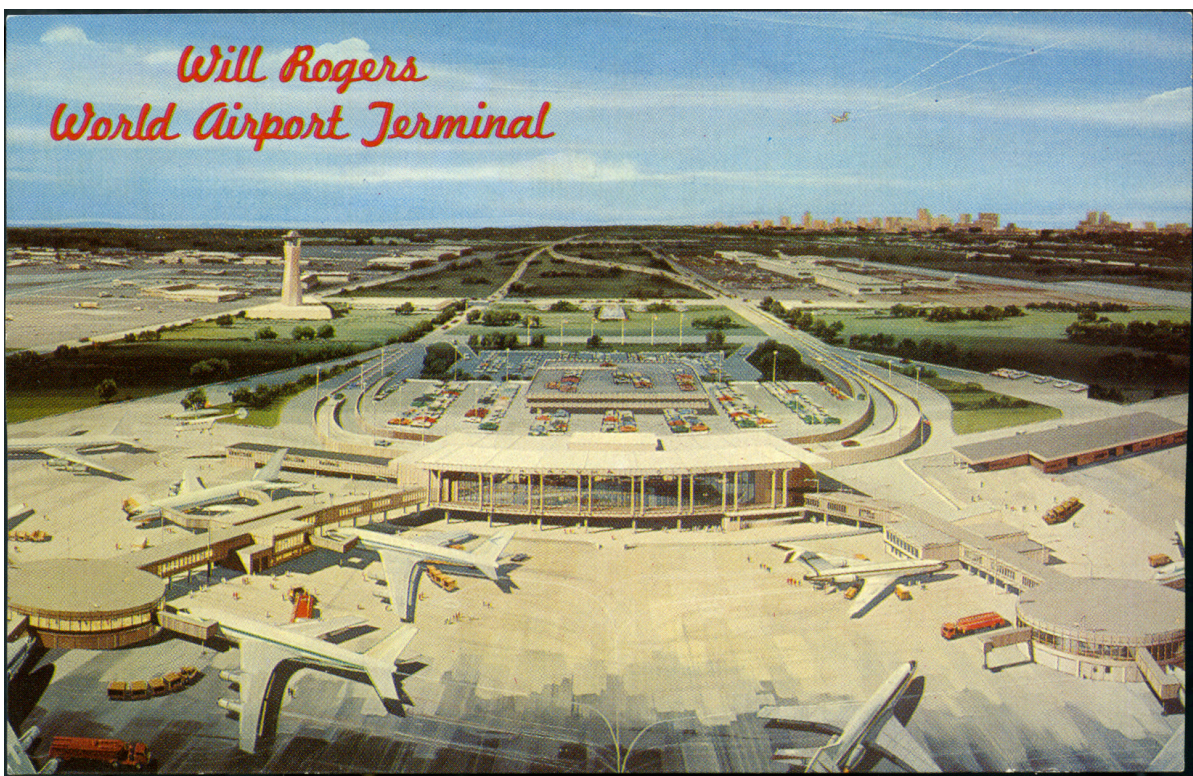




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C H I C K A S A W   W H I T E   H O U S E





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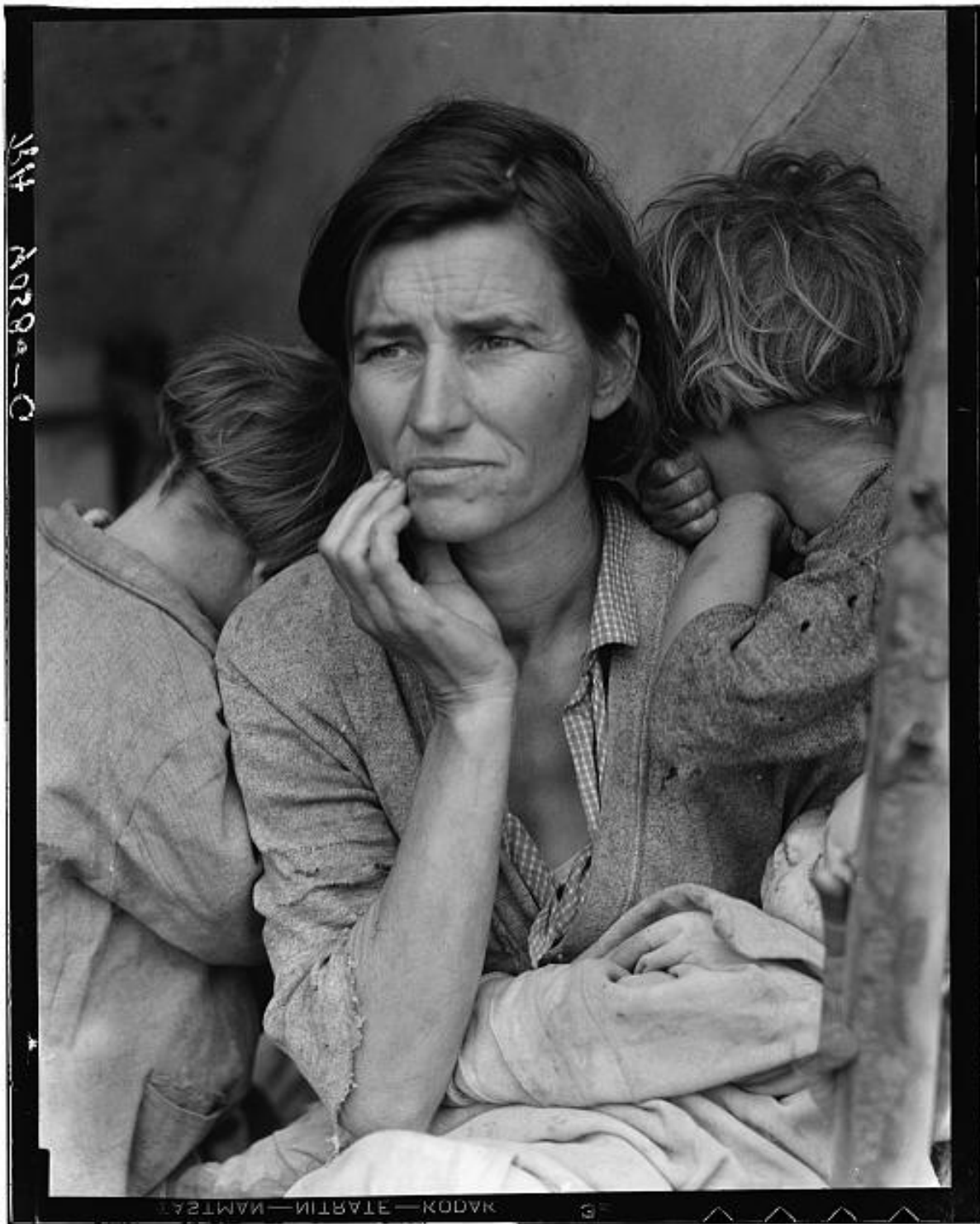
More Oklahomans reach Calif. via the cotton fields of Ariz.





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