

Geography Application

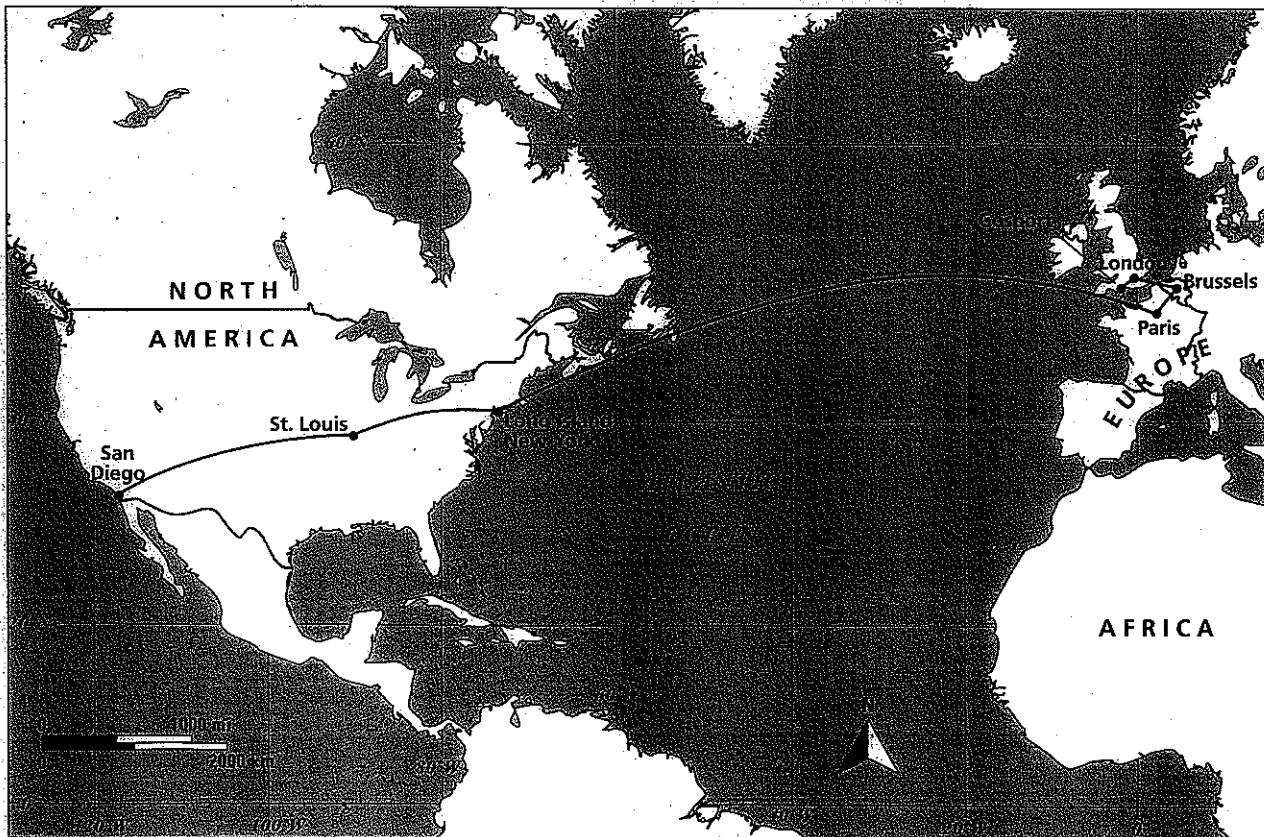
The Historic Flight of "Lucky Lindy"

It all began in 1919. A New York City businessman put up a \$25,000 prize for the first person to fly solo and nonstop from New York to Paris. Over the next seven years, several pilots, American and European, died trying to win the money. Then, in 1927, an unknown pilot whose job was flying the mail between St. Louis and Chicago tried his luck.

The pilot was Charles Lindbergh. He got financial backing for a special airplane from some St. Louis businesses. So he named it the *Spirit of St. Louis*. A firm in San Diego then built the craft under his supervision. On May 10th he took off for St. Louis, staying overnight. The next day he flew to a field on Long Island, New York. There he spent a week waiting for good weather. Finally, on May 20, he left for Paris. Lindbergh landed 33 and a half hours later amongst thousands of cheering Parisians "gone insane with joy." He had flown 3,600 miles. The French honored him with medals. He flew on to two more European capitals for more celebrations.

It was now May 30. Lindbergh wanted to fly his plane back to Long Island. He considered going eastward across Europe, Asia, Alaska, and Canada. However, President Calvin Coolidge wanted "Lucky Lindy" back in the United States for celebrations as soon as possible. A disappointed Lindbergh gave up his around-the-world plans. He flew the plane to Gosport, England, the unofficial last stop of his adventure. The map below shows Lindbergh's route from San Diego to Gosport.

At Gosport, the *Spirit of St. Louis* was taken apart, crated, and placed on board the U.S. cruiser *Memphis*. (The government did want to risk losing the plane on a return flight. But Lindbergh felt it was insulting to have his plane go back on a boat.) On June 4, Lindbergh and his plane sailed for Washington, D.C., arriving on June 11. Two days later he was the center of a gigantic ticker-tape parade in New York City. Three days after that he received his check for \$25,000.



Interpreting Maps and Text

1. Why did Lindbergh name his airplane the *Spirit of St. Louis*?

2. Why did Lindbergh's famous journey actually begin with a flight out of San Diego?

3. From where did Lindbergh leave to begin crossing the Atlantic Ocean?

What was his destination?

4. Why are Brussels and London on the map?

5. How was Lindbergh originally planning to return to the United States?

6. What is the significance of Gosport, England?

7. Lindbergh's flight across the ocean took place between approximately what degrees latitude?

8. Why do you think Lindbergh's flight line is not a straight line from Long Island to Paris?
