Labour History Project Working People: A History of Labour in BC



**Margaret Rutledge**

Film Summary: Rutledge was a pioneer in Canadian aviation, setting up an all female “Flying Seven” Club in Vancouver. Useful as a case study of the sexual division of labour and summarizes historical obstacles facing women as commercial pilots. This episode is a good extension to discussions on the BCATP and women’s limited non-combat, ground-based “support roles” in WWII.

**Curriculum Application:**

Social Studies 11 and Social Justice 12

**The Essential Question:**

Why have women historically been underrepresented as pilots in the Canadian aviation industry?

What historical factors

**Summary of the Lesson Activities**

1. Focus questions for the vignette provides a short lesson option. ( 15 Minutes )
2. Students have a variety of writing assignments to complete after watching the vignette and reading the biography of Margaret Rutledge.
3. An extension activity where the students write letters to the editor in response to an event created by Margaret Rutledge from multiple perspectives.
4. Summarize historical factors limiting opportunities for female pilots in early days of aviation.
5. Suggest plausible reasons explaining why female pilots in general have been historically underrepresented as pilots in private and commercial aviation.
6. Identify the work of Margaret Rutledge as an example of human agency in history.
7. To examine the role women played in the Canada’s military engagement in the Second World War.

Learning Objectives

**Materials and Resources Provided**

* [“Margaret Rutledge” Episode 3-](https://cdnapisec.kaltura.com/index.php/extwidget/preview/partner_id/1454421/uiconf_id/26824312/entry_id/0_ocef1nrz/embed/dynamic)

[Working People – A History of](https://cdnapisec.kaltura.com/index.php/extwidget/preview/partner_id/1454421/uiconf_id/26824312/entry_id/0_ocef1nrz/embed/dynamic)

[Labour in British Columbia](https://cdnapisec.kaltura.com/index.php/extwidget/preview/partner_id/1454421/uiconf_id/26824312/entry_id/0_ocef1nrz/embed/dynamic)

Appendix 1: Teaching Strategies

Appendix 2: A Brief History of Women in Canadian Aviation

Lesson Activity 1: Activities for Students

Lesson Activity 2: Vancouver Sun article1940

Lesson Activity 3: Synthesis of Women in Aviation

**Additional Suggested Materials**

[“These were the reasons….” Chapter 7 Fighting for Equity” The 30’s, the War Years, and a Shoreworker’s Story](https://teachbcdb.bctf.ca/list?q=these+were+the+reasons&p=1&ps=25)

<http://www.canadianflight.org/content/margaret-fane-rutledge>

**Lesson Activities**

1. At the teachers discretion lesson ideas can be applied to a Social Studies 11 class, English/Humanities class or Planning 10. Students are encouraged to read the article in Lesson Activity 2: A Brief History of Women in Canadian Aviation after viewing the vignette and before proceeding to the various activities in this lesson outline.
2. For individual assignments, students can select or be assigned one or more of the 6 writing assignments outlined in Lesson Activity 1. These activities cover biography, historical context, Letter to the Editor, Diary or Journal entry, Synthesis of Women in Aviation , and a job application for a pilot to a fictitious airline in 1946 (Extension Activity 2.
3. Have the students individually or in pairs write responses to the article in the Vancouver Sun “Women Fliers Drop “Pamphlets” on City. (Lesson Activty 2: Vancouver Sun article1940)
4. As a summative exercise students can complete the Synthesis of Women in Aviation exercise using the diagram provided in Lesson Activity 3.

Credit: Teaching Activities and Lesson Plan developed by Tony Arruda

**Vignette Questions**

1. Why was Margaret Rutledge’s 1st Commercial Pilot’s license a significant achievement in 1935?
2. Was her acquisition of a commercial pilot’s license a “ticket” to employment in her field?
3. Which famous female aviators group did Margaret and 6 colleagues try to join in California?
4. Who were the “Flying 7”?
5. What flying related job did Margaret get in Zeballos in 1938? How did she leverage this hire to get into the cockpit of the airplane?
6. Suggest factors that keep women being employed as pilots today?