Lesson Activity 1 Lesson: Margaret Rutledge

**MARGARET FANE RUTLEDGE -- Activities for Students**

You have a choice of six diverse assignments:

1. Biography. Write a short (150-200 word) biography of Mary Fane Rutledge in your own words. You must situate her personal information in the context of the times in which she lived. This means you must write about Rutledge while considering the political, social, and economic factors at the time that affected the lives of women and girls.

2. Historical context. Carol Davis, (a pseudonym) grew up around Williams Lake, British Columbia, and earned a pilot’s license as a teen in the 1970s. Carol’s dreams of becoming a bush pilot was crushed by a father, himself a pilot, who discouraged her from the occupation, warning, “only a cage around the cockpit would keep her safe from the men in the bush.”

a. First, list and briefly describe reasons that historically have kept women from flying. b. Second, considering the vignette and related sources, how relevant are Carol’s story and the father’s narrative to the story of Margaret and female aviators in Canada? c. Examine table “Profile of Commercial Pilots by Gender.” Is the story of Margaret and Carol relevant today? Suggest factors that keep women from becoming pilots

3. Letter to the Editor. Assume two individuals, one of them an early feminist, watched as Margaret and the “Flying Seven” dropped “bombphlets” on Vancouver on Thursday, June 20, 1940, in the early days of the Second World War. The event was later described in “Vancouver’s Women Fliers Drop ‘Pamphlets’ on City.” Read the copy of the article. Write two short (100 -150 words) Letters to the Editor of the *Vancouver Sun* reacting to the event and to the article. Note the two letters should reveal different viewpoints or perspectives on the same event. One must be from the feminist; the other is a person of your choosing.

4. Diary or journal Assignment. It is 1946. Assume the role of Margaret Fane Rutledge. Write a diary or journal entry (minimum 100 words per entry) for any three days in which you describe living and working at Ginger Coote Airways, at Zeballos, a small west coast Vancouver Island mining town located 300 kilometres north of Victoria, B.C. It is suggested the first journal entry be dated February 20, the second, June 21, the third December 24th. This assignment involves fiction, of course, but your task is to employ your knowledge of the Rutledge vignette and articles in this lesson, as well as your general knowledge of women in Canadian society during this period in order to make this as realistic as possible. You might look online for photographs of Zeballos and west coast Vancouver Island to get a visual sense of the place in this time period. Remember a good test for successful “historical fiction,” sometimes called “creative non-fiction” makes readers feel they are “really there.” The successful writer uses historical facts together with their knowledge of society at the time. They create a sense that while the events as described didn’t actually happen, they clearly resemble similar events that did happen. Good writers create events that the educated reader knows could reasonably have happened.

5. Synthesis of Women in Aviation. (Lesson Activity 3 Synthesis of Women in Aviation)

This graphic organizer requires students (individually or as a class) to review the Rutledge vignette and associated sources in this lesson in order to consider the factors that historically kept women from becoming pilots. Use the organizer to list important facts and ideas by time period, i.e. the 1920s and 1930s. Complete the organizer by summarizing the main connections (the factors working against women becoming pilots) between all time periods.

6. Pacific Coastal Aviation Application. This is a simple, unusual, but effective manner to summarize the reasons why worthy applicants such as Margaret Fane Rutledge faced gender discrimination by companies as well as by society in general. The Application has two parts. First, assume it is 1946, the Second World War has ended, and you are Margaret Rutledge applying for a job with Pacific Coastal Airlines, a fictional company located in a small isolated logging settlement of 300 people (including five women and twenty children), along the coast north of Nanaimo, B.C. Second, you must now assume you are an employee of Pacific Coastal Aviation who is processing the application that was completed by Margaret. Using a different coloured pencil or ink, your task is to complete the Company portion of the application. List both the reasons for and against hiring her as a pilot. You must keep in mind social expectations regarding women’s work in 1946. Remember too that you have an obligation to satisfy your company bosses who are males, and you must also consider the future economic well-being of the company which employees you. Your teacher may choose that you work with a partner on this assignment to better brainstorm and reflect upon different points of view.

***PACIFIC COAST AVIATION***  **Application for a Commercial License**

**(Special Note: do not write in the space “Reserved for Company Use Only”)**

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date of Application: December 15, 1944 D.O.B.: Month: \_\_\_\_\_ Day: \_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Town/City: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Prov./State:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Why do you want to become a pilot?

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Relevant Biographical Information. List anything you believe is important or relevant to consider in this application, for example, early interests and experience with aviation.

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What qualifies you to become a pilot? State all relevant or related skills and experiences which will assist this application.

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What other skills, aptitudes, or abilities do you feel Pacific Coastal Aviation should consider in this application? (i.e. why should we consider you above other qualified applicants?)

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Who may be contact for a reference? Provide the name of at least one individual or organization that can support your application (no addresses required at this time).

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**Note to Applicant. This space is “Reserved for Company Use Only”). Employees are requested to make any notes/observations/opinions as they consider this applicant. (use reverse if needed)**

List strengths of applicant or factors why we SHOULD hire this individual.

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List weaknesses of applicant or factors why we SHOULD NOT hire this individual.

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In your opinion and considering the above would you hire this individual? Circle One: Yes/No Briefly explain your opinion while being fair to individual, to our flying customers, as well as to the company’s future well-being (continue comments on reverse of this paper if necessary).

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**Sources Referenced and for Student Research (***Research credit: Laura Hope)*

**Newspaper articles or stories with first or second hand accounts of stories**

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