

Suitable for
6-7 years

- ✓ Solo
- ✓ Pairs
- ✓ Groups

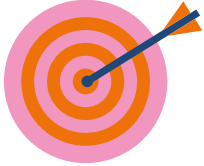
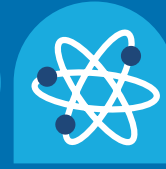
Sarah's song

Amy Johnson

How to guide

Created and written by Frances Lynch in collaboration
with Electrical Engineer, Sarah Cooper





Aim and background info

This song is about Amy Johnson, a pioneering British pilot, who was the first ever woman to make a solo flight all the way from England to Australia.

Amy was inspirational because she was a pilot against all the odds – at a time where it wasn't the norm for women to fly planes, much less women who weren't of the Gentry. With the support of her father, Amy persevered, and gained her pilot's license.

In this song, we have the students following Amy as she makes her journey from England to Australia. They learn about all of the exciting places Amy was able to visit, and the things those places are famous for (eg. Austria for Coffee and Turkey for a bath!).

Amy famously plotted her route in a straight line all the way from England to Australia, so many of the places she visited fall directly on this route and can be looked at in conjunction with an atlas or globe.

We also present some of the challenges Amy faced on her journey (landing in a ditch, going off course, making repairs) to highlight Amy's complete perseverance and ability to fix things herself.

Finally, we highlight Amy's achievements – breaking records and landing in Australia to great adoration. The overall key message is that of determination and drive – it's okay to get things wrong and have challenges along the way but we can learn to overcome them, sometimes by ourselves and sometimes with the help of others.



Materials

1. **Word Sheet** – Amy Johnson - Song Words only
2. **Music Score** of the tune with chords – Amy Johnson
3. **MP3 Sound recordings** x5
 - a. Amy Johnson - the [complete song](#) performed by Frances M lynch, produced by Herbie Clarke at Birnam Studios, London.
 - b. Amy Johnson - **listen and repeat, 3 x learning tracks** to help the children work on the music of the song
 - Amy Johnson – [Listen and repeat chorus](#)
 - Amy Johnson – [Listen and repeat verses 1 & 2](#)
 - Amy Johnson – [Listen and repeat verses 3 & 4](#)
 - c. Amy Johnson – [Accompaniment only](#) – sing along once you all know it
4. **BSL Video** – Amy Johnson - The complete song – Frances sings the song with Lauren Lister who is a British Sign Language Interpreter. This is a zoom recorded video.



Instructions

You will have your own ideas about how best to use the materials but this suggestion may help:

1. Talk about Amy Johnson (you'll find out more about her on this link) – tell her story – particularly her journey from England to Australia and why it was such an amazing achievement, particularly for a woman at that time.
2. Play **the complete song** sound file for them to listen to – then see if they can remember all the countries mentioned, and discuss those countries, what the song says about them, what the children know about them (culture, language, food etc), plot the journey on a map (as below), what flags do they have?....etc....

3. Learn to sing the song really well – either use the **listen and repeat** sound files or if you are able to do it yourself you can use the Score sheet with guitar chords.

Note: you can use the **song words only** sheet at this point but consider learning the chorus by rote (with actions!) and assign the verses to different groups/pairs eg:- there are 13 countries that could be assigned; or one line each of the 16 lines from the Verses or just a verse each. Each group would remember their lines only and use an action (you may want to suggest some from the BSL video) and all join the chorus of course! They will certainly find it easier to sing along with like this to begin with at least.

4. When you are ready, sing along with **the complete song** track
5. Once they are familiar with the song they may like to try it without me! So use the **accompaniment only** or play it on guitar or keyboard and see how you get on.
6. Watch the **BSL video** and join in with the signing – you can follow Frances if you are not used to doing this – or Lauren if you are!
7. **GO FURTHER!** - Make up your own song about an amazing journey. If you make up a song, or a poem or a story or draw a picture please let Frances and Sarah know – they'd love to see and hear your work! You can email Frances at:
frances@electrivoicetheatre.co.uk





Engineering career links

Sarah who developed this activity is an electrical or hardware engineer. She works in a team to design parts for different aeroplanes today – modern aircraft are more complex than those used by Amy Johnson and contain a lot of electrical parts to control them and in safety monitoring systems to keep the plane safe.



Extension ideas

Why not try to build your own plane model – use the worksheet and activity guide developed by Sarah to help you. Or for more engineering songs check out Antonio’s music about acoustical engineering.