As the first African American, and Native American, female pilot, Bessie Coleman was unable to pursue obtaining a pilot’s license in the United States, thus moving to France to become an exhibition flier. She was the first African American woman to publicly fly, performing loop-the-loops and figure eights. Among her various achievements, Bessie was known for encouraging members of underrepresented populations to pursue flying and for fighting against segregation.

Learn more at:
- Bessie Coleman | National Air and Space Museum
- Bessie Coleman | National Women’s History Museum (womenshistory.org)