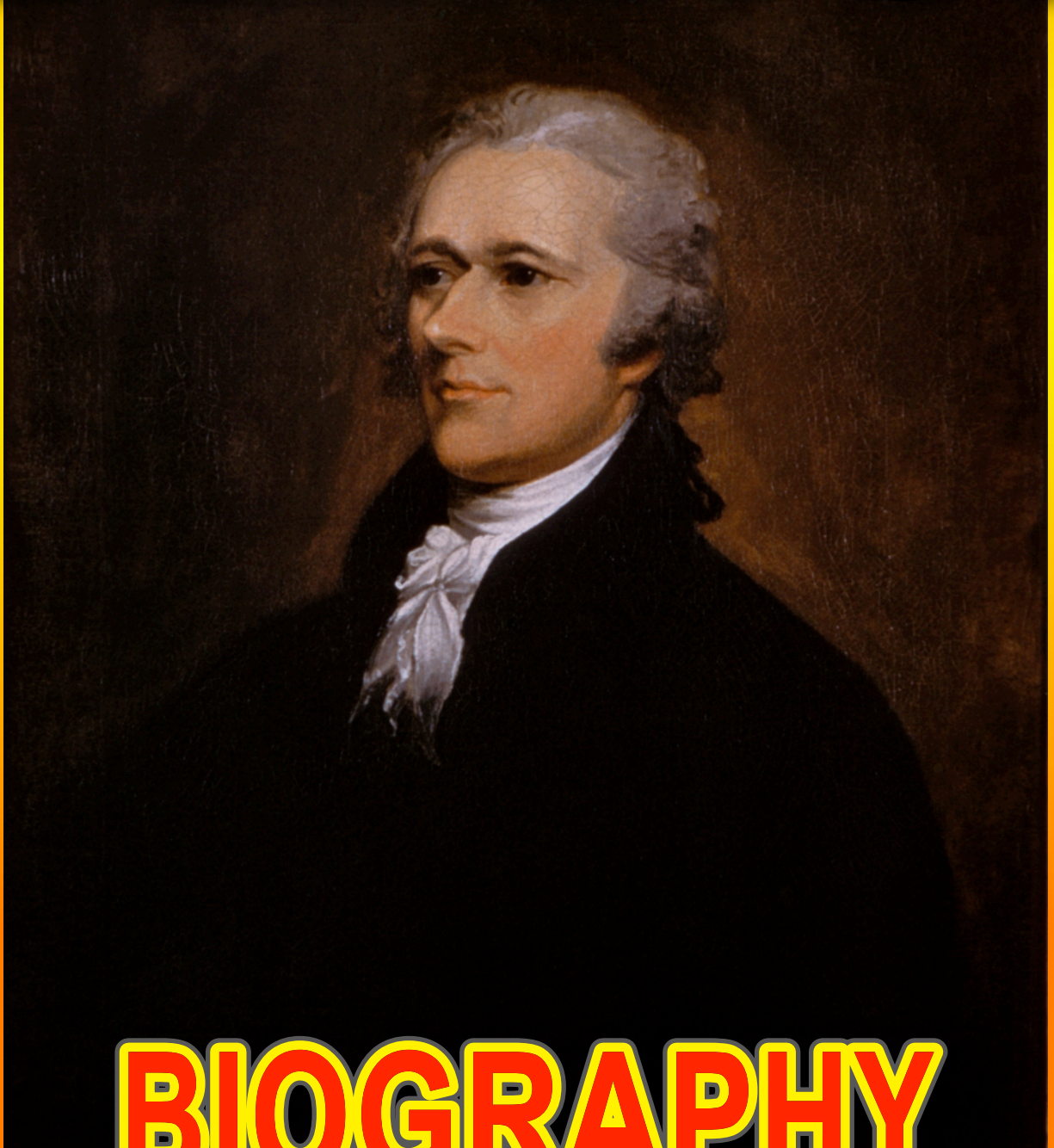


ALEXANDER HAMILTON



BIOGRAPHY

ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Alexander Hamilton was born in the West Indies in 1755, and moved to America in 1772 to further his education. It was not long before Hamilton was writing about politics and revolution. During the Revolutionary War, Hamilton became a captain in the army, and worked closely with George Washington.

Hamilton was a Federalist in favor of a strong central government and maintaining good trade relations with Britain. This put him against figures like Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, who wanted little to do with Britain.

After the war, Hamilton was a lawyer and banker in New York for a time, but he soon became unhappy with the way the new country was being run. So Hamilton pushed for a convention to change the constitution, and he wrote his arguments down in 'The Federalist Papers'.

As President, George Washington made Hamilton the first Secretary of the Treasury in the United States. Hamilton created America's first government-owned bank, and he encouraged trade with Britain. He later helped establish the Federalist Party.

When it came to electing the next president, Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr tied. Hamilton backed Jefferson, despite their earlier differences. When Burr then ran for Governor of New York in 1802, Hamilton tried to block him again. In the end, Burr grew so frustrated at Hamilton's actions, that he challenged him to a duel in 1804. Both men fired shots in the duel. But Hamilton missed Burr, while Burr badly wounded Hamilton. Hamilton died the next day, in New York.

Understanding words

Before we can understand a story we have to know what all of the words mean. Let's try one...

a Write the sentence in which you found the word 'central'.

b From that sentence, suggest what 'central' means.

c Write a new sentence using the word 'central'.

d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'central'.

e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'central' means.

Finding key words

Next, we need to find the key words that tell us what the story is about...

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list like the one below. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym). You don't have to use all the spaces, but you should not use more.

Key word	Synonym (similar word)
Example: backed	supported

Sequencing

Sequencing means getting the events in the right order. Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make sense.

In this role, Hamilton set up the first government-owned bank in America.

Hamilton died after a duel with Aaron Burr, whom he had angered.

During the Revolutionary War, Hamilton was active in the military.

Alexander Hamilton was born in 1755 in the West Indies.

Under President Washington, Hamilton was America's first Secretary of the Treasury.

Hamilton was a Federalist, and so supported a strong central government.

In 1773, Hamilton moved to America to study.

Get to the facts

1 Who did Hamilton work with during the Revolutionary War?

2 Where was Hamilton a lawyer?

3 Which position did Hamilton have under President Washington?

4 Which party did Hamilton establish?

5 How did Hamilton die?

Make a story...

When you read a description it often gives you ideas about how the event might be described differently.

Duel!

Imagine you have been challenged to a duel... (now complete the story)

Below is a plain text version for printing:

Understanding words:

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- b From that sentence, suggest what 'central' means.
- c Write a new sentence using the word 'central'.
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Finding key words:

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym).

For example:

Key word – backed

Synonym – supported

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