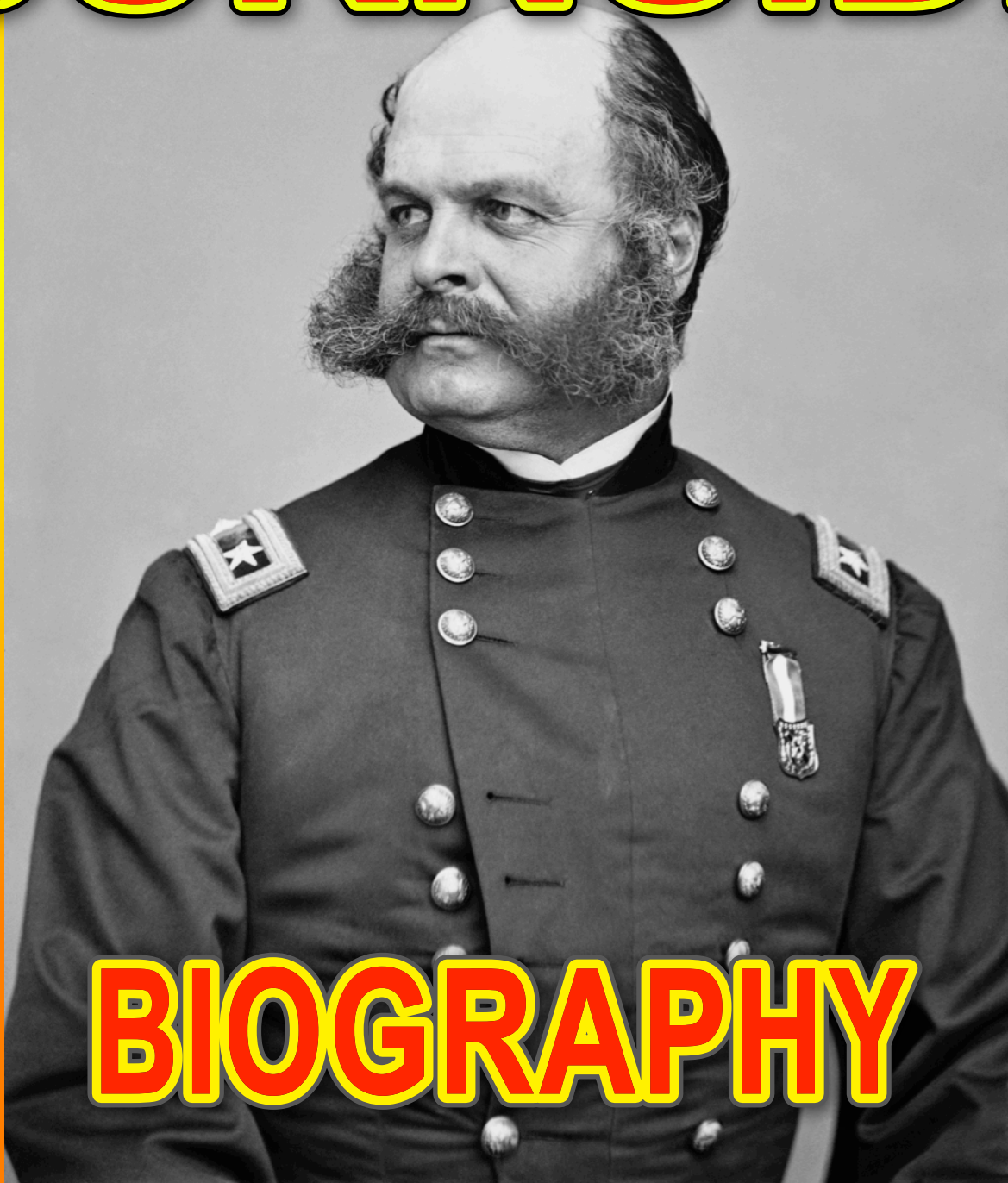


AMBROSE BURNSIDE



BIOGRAPHY

AMBROSE BURNSIDE

Ambrose Burnside was born on May 23, 1824, in Liberty, Indiana. He trained at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, and graduated in 1847. He fought in the Mexican-American War, and then resigned to go into the rifle-making business. But the business was not successful, so Burnside went back to the military.

Burnside was in charge of soldiers in Rhode Island at the time the Civil War broke out. He led his men in protecting the capitol at Washington against Confederate attack. After that, Burnside was in charge of three brigades in North Carolina, where his men established a strong position.

As the war went on, Burnside rose through the Union ranks, until he was made commander of the Army of the Potomac in 1862. But only a month later, Burnside suffered a heavy defeat at the Battle of Fredericksburg. After that, he lost his position of command.

Later on in the war, Burnside had some success in Tennessee, when he held Knoxville long enough for Union troops to come to his aid and force Confederate general James L. Longstreet to retreat.

One of Burnside's last efforts in the Civil War came at the Battle of the Crater in 1864. Burnside and his men used explosives to scatter the Confederate troops. But then Burnside waited too long to take advantage of this. As a result, thousands of Union soldiers lost their lives. In April 1865, Burnside left the military once again.

Shortly after the Civil War, Burnside became Governor of Rhode Island. He then went on to become a senator, but he died in 1881, during his second term. He is remembered for his role in the Civil War, but also for his way of wearing long facial hair on the cheeks but not on the chin. We call the style 'sideburns' now, after him.

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 'resigned'.

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

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

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

e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'resigned' 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: protecting	defending

Sequencing

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

Burnside went into Rhode Island politics before his death in 1881.

Throughout the war, Burnside suffered defeats, but also secured victories.

When the Civil War broke out, Burnside was in charge of troops in Rhode Island.

Ambrose Burnside was born in Indiana in 1824.

As the war went on, Burnside rose through the ranks until he was commander of the Army of the Potomac.

In 1865, Burnside lost thousands of Union troops, so he left the military.

After graduating from West Point, Burnside fought in the Mexican-American War.

Get to the facts

1 Where did Ambrose Burnside train?

2 What did Burnside protect the capitol at Washington against?

3 When was Burnside commander of the Army of the Potomac?

4 When was the Battle of the Crater?

5 What style of facial hair is named for Burnside?

Make a story...

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

Leaving the military

Imagine you are Ambrose Burnside in April 1864. Write a diary entry for the day you decide to leave the army.

Below is a plain text version for printing:

Understanding words:

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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 – protecting Synonym – defending

Sequencing:

Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make sense:

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Throughout the war, Burnside suffered defeats, but also secured victories.

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Get to the facts:

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- 2 What did Burnside protect the capitol at Washington against?
- 3 When was Burnside commander of the Army of the Potomac?
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Make a story...

Leaving the military

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Ambrose Burnside

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