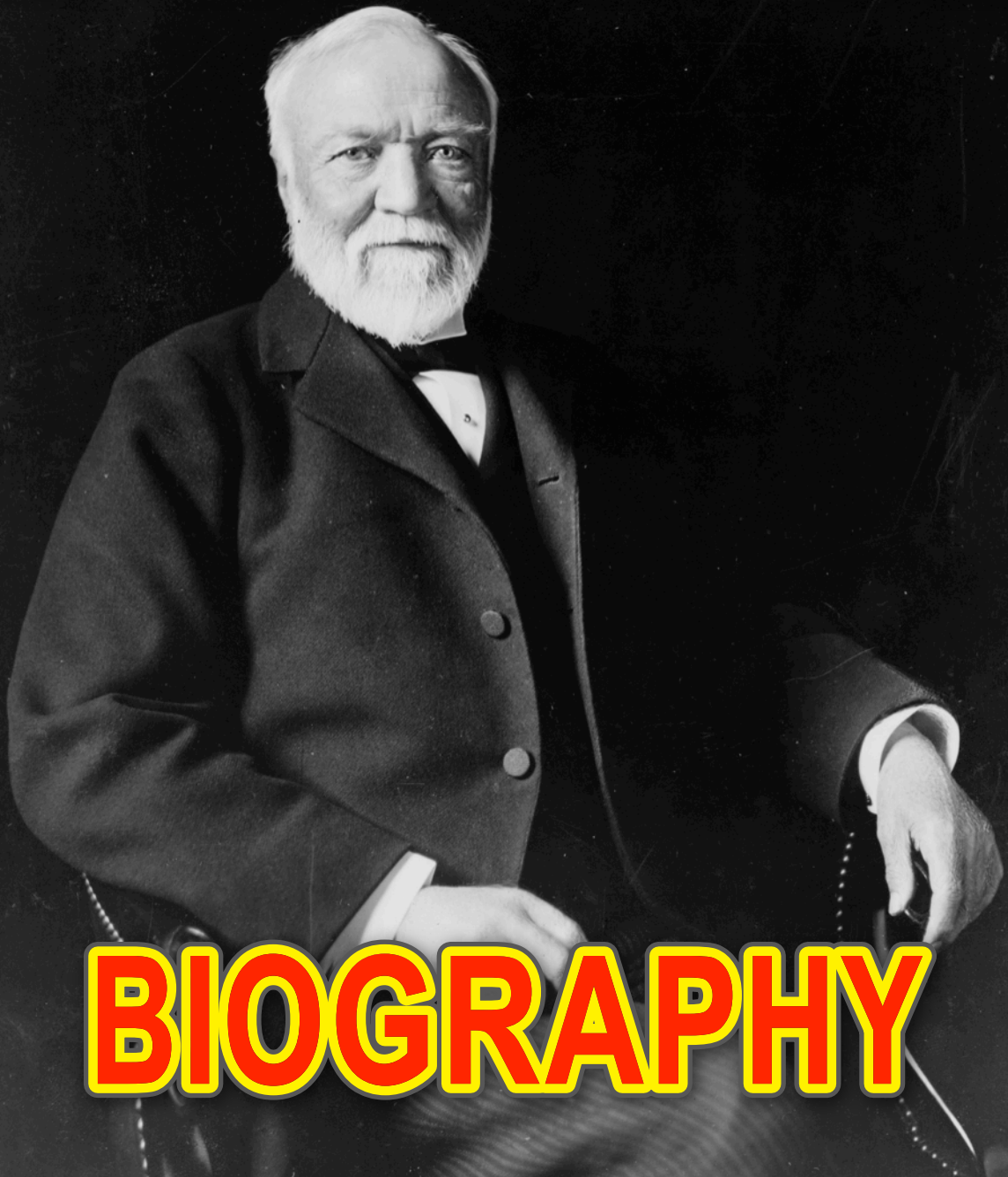


ANDREW CARNEGIE



BIOGRAPHY

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Andrew Carnegie was born to a family of Scottish weavers in 1835. As the 19th century wore on, industrialization put traditional weavers like Carnegie's father out of work. By the 1840s, the Carnegies were struggling to survive. And so, the family set off for America in search of a new life and better fortune.

The Carnegie family reached America in 1848, and settled in Allegheny, Pennsylvania. Andrew was just 13 years old, but he started working in a factory to support his family's income. As he got older, he worked first for a telegraph operator, then a railroad company. He took every available chance to improve business, and he was promoted to higher roles as a result.

While he was still working for the railroad company, Carnegie started investing in a variety of ventures, including oil companies and construction firms. In the 1860s, he left the railroad company and concentrated on steel. This metal was an important new material that was being used to build up cities in America, boosting the economy.

Carnegie founded the Carnegie Steel Company, and worked to make steel production and transportation as efficient as possible. He controlled all stages in the process, and met the huge demand for the material. Before long, Carnegie was extremely rich – one of the wealthiest men during this 'Gilded Age' of America.

But not everything went Carnegie's way. In 1892, Carnegie tried to pay his company's workers less. In reply, they refused to work. This strike turned violent, and Carnegie was blamed.

Just under a decade later, Carnegie made an unexpected move. Even though his company was still making him hugely wealthy, he decided to sell it to a steel corporation owned by financier J. P. Morgan.

But for Carnegie, money wasn't everything. In the early 20th century, he embarked on a wave of philanthropic projects using the large fortune he had made over the years. Carnegie cared a great deal about learning and education, and so funded universities and libraries like the New York Public Library. Carnegie believed that those with large fortunes should use it for the public good, and he wrote about his ideas in an article called 'Wealth' in 1889.

Carnegie was also concerned about world peace. He feared growing political problems in Europe in the 1910s would result in all-out war. Despite trying to get world leaders to resolve the problems through talking, World War One broke out in Europe in 1914. After this, Carnegie fell into a deep depression, and he died in 1919.

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 '**weavers**'.

b From that sentence, suggest what '**weavers**' means.

c Write a new sentence using the word '**weavers**'.

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

e Draw a small picture showing what you think '**weavers**' 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: boosting	improving

Sequencing

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

After Carnegie sold his company, he donated much of his money to the public good.

In America, Andrew Carnegie worked to support his family.

Then Carnegie founded the Carnegie Steel Company, which made him even more money.

Andrew Carnegie was born in Scotland in 1835.

When Carnegie's father lost work as a weaver, he decided to move his family to America.

Carnegie died not long after World War One.

Later on, Carnegie made investments that built up his fortune.

Get to the facts

1 Where was Andrew Carnegie born?

2 When did Carnegie reach America?

3 Which steel company did Carnegie found?

4 Who did Carnegie sell his company to?

5 What did Carnegie fund later on in life?

Make a story...

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

Reaching America

Imagine you are Andrew Carnegie in 1848. You are arriving on American shores for the first time...(now complete the story)

Below is a plain text version for printing:

Understanding words:

- a Write the sentence in which you found the word 'weavers'.
- b From that sentence, suggest what 'weavers' means.
- c Write a new sentence using the word 'weavers'.
- d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'weavers'.
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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 – boosting Synonym – improving

Sequencing:

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

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