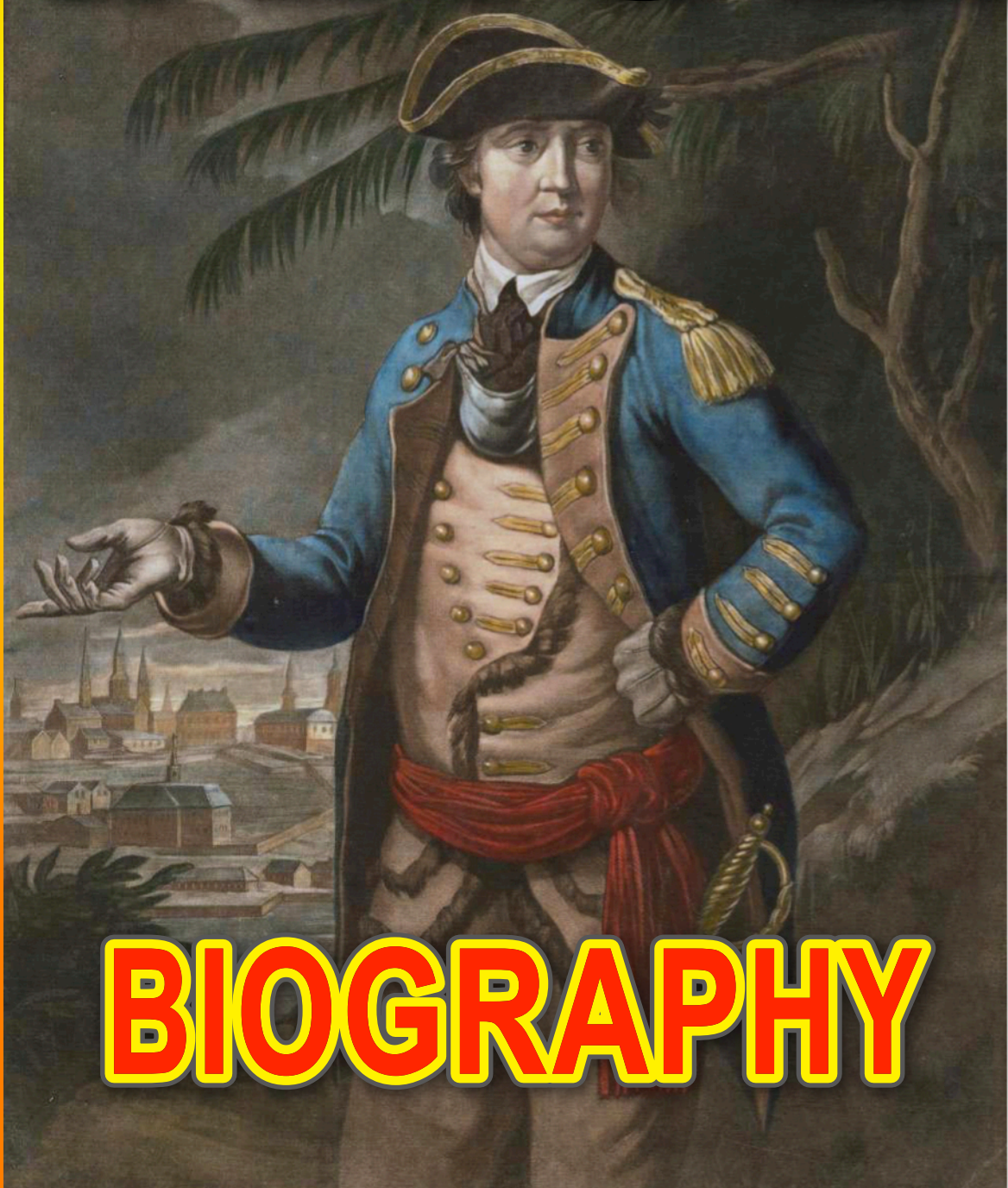


BENEDICT ARNOLD



BIOGRAPHY

BENEDICT ARNOLD

Benedict Arnold was born on January 14, 1741, in the British colony of Connecticut. Although he was from a wealthy family, his father lost the family fortune through drinking. As a young man, Benedict teamed up with a merchant to buy up ships and start trading with the West Indies. Soon afterwards, the British imposed taxes like the Sugar Act and Stamp Act on the colonies. This meant Arnold could not trade as much. And so, Arnold joined the Sons of Liberty, a group of revolutionaries who resisted British rule. Before long, Americans were in all-out war against Britain.

During this war for independence, Arnold started out as an American hero. In 1775, he took control of Fort Ticonderoga in New York alongside Ethan Allen and his Green Mountain Boys from Vermont. In the winter of that year, Arnold led his men through modern-day Maine to attack Quebec in Canada, but it was a failure. Harsh weather on the trek there killed off many of his men, and others who had survived were then killed in the battle. Arnold himself was badly wounded in the leg, but survived.

During the next year, he turned American fortunes around by resisting British advances from Canada during the Battle of Lake Champlain. He was also crucial to American victory at the Battle of Saratoga. But despite all his efforts, Arnold was not promoted or honored as much as he felt he deserved.

After wounding his leg again in 1778, Arnold was put in charge of Philadelphia. While there, Arnold, increasingly frustrated and running out of money, switched sides in the war. He married Peggy Shippen, who had British contacts, including Major John André. Arnold gave him secret messages about where American troops were moving to, and where their supplies were kept.

By 1780, Arnold was in charge of the fort at West Point, New York. He made a deal with the British to allow the fort to be captured, in return for money and a good position in the British army. Arnold then set about making sure the fort was weak enough to be taken, by not repairing its fortifications.

But before the plan could be carried out in full, André was captured. He had on him messages about the plan, and the Americans knew then that Arnold was a traitor. Arnold managed to flee to British-held territory and escape capture by the Americans. He served in the British army until the Revolutionary War ended, and then he moved to England, where he died in 1801. In America, his name came to be used as a phrase meaning 'traitor'.

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 'revolutionaries'.

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

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

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

e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'revolutionaries' 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: switched	changed

Sequencing

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

The plan was discovered before it was carried out, and Arnold was revealed as a traitor.

At the beginning of the war, Arnold was a hero for the American side.

Benedict Arnold was born in the British colony of Connecticut in 1741.

Before long, Britain and the American colonies were at war.

And so, Arnold made a deal with the British to let them capture West Point in return for money and status.

As a merchant trader, Arnold was affected by British taxes in the 1760s.

But Arnold did not receive the recognition he thought he deserved.

Get to the facts

- 1 Which revolutionary group did Benedict Arnold join?
- 2 Which fort did Arnold capture in 1775?
- 3 What killed off many soldiers on the way to Quebec?
- 4 Which British major did Arnold pass messages to?
- 5 What were the secret messages about?

Make a story...

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

André captured

Imagine you are Benedict Arnold in 1780. You have sent a secret message with John André, and are waiting for news. Then you hear that he has been captured, and the messages have been found...(now complete the story)

Below is a plain text version for printing:

Understanding words:

- a Write the sentence in which you found the word 'revolutionaries'.
- b From that sentence, suggest what 'revolutionaries' means.
- c Write a new sentence using the word 'revolutionaries'.
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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 – switched Synonym – changed

Sequencing:

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

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