

# BILLY THE KID



## BIOGRAPHY

# BILLY THE KID

Billy the Kid was born on November 23, 1859 in New York City with the name William Henry McCarty Jr. He lost his parents when young, and had to fend for himself from an early age. This difficult upbringing soon turned Billy towards a life of gangs and crime.

It began with stealing food and clothes. Billy the Kid was arrested and put in jail, but he escaped by climbing up a chimney. After that, Billy the Kid headed west to Arizona. There he stole horses, and acted as a gunfighter for various gangs.

Then Billy the Kid became involved in the Lincoln County War, during which he killed a sheriff. Now a wanted man, Billy the Kid went on the run. He gambled and stole horses and cattle to get by, until he was finally arrested in 1880.

Billy the Kid was sentenced to death for his crimes, but he managed to escape his captors and went on the run again. But on July 14, 1881, Sheriff Pat Garrett traced him to Fort Sumner in New Mexico and fatally shot him.

It was Pat Garrett who helped make Billy the Kid famous after his death by writing a book about Billy the Kid's life and deeds.

# 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 'upbringing'.

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

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

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

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

Try this for other words, too. 2

# 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: famous	well-known

# Sequencing

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

Billy the Kid went to jail, but he escaped by climbing up a chimney.

At first, Billy the Kid stole food and clothes to survive.

Billy the Kid went on the run, and was arrested in 1800.

During the Lincoln County War, Billy the Kid shot a sheriff.

Billy the Kid escaped arrest again, but was shot by Pat Garrett in 1881.

After that, Billy the Kid went to Arizona.

Billy the Kid lost his parents when he was young.

# Get to the facts

1 When was Billy the Kid born?

2 What turned Billy the Kid towards crime?

3 What did he steal first?

4 Who killed Billy the Kid?

5 Where did he die?

# Make a story...

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

## On the run

Imagine you are Billy the Kid. You have committed a crime and know you are a wanted man. It was time to leave town... (now complete the story)

**Below is a plain text version for printing:**

## Understanding words:

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- b From that sentence, suggest what 'upbringing' means.
- c Write a new sentence using the word 'upbringing'.
- d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'upbringing'.
- e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'upbringing' means.

## 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 – famous

Synonym – well-known

## Sequencing:

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

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At first, Billy the Kid stole food and clothes to survive.

Billy the Kid went on the run, and was arrested in 1880.

During the Lincoln County War, Billy the Kid shot a sheriff.

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## **Get to the facts:**

- 1 When was Billy the Kid born?
- 2 What turned Billy the Kid towards crime?
- 3 What did he steal first?
- 4 Who killed Billy the Kid?
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## **Make a story...**

### **On the run**

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# Billy the Kid

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