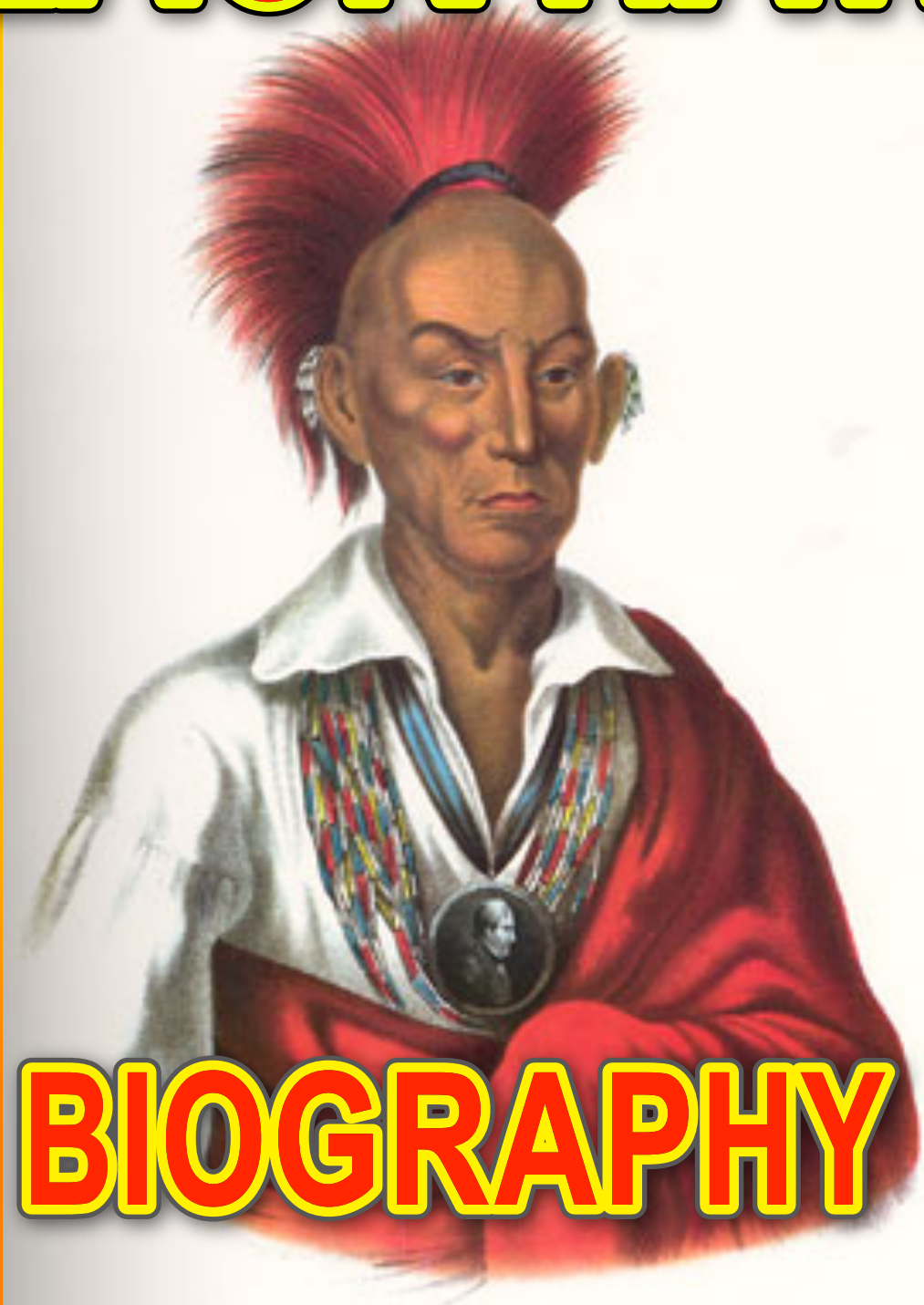


# BLACK HAWK



## BIOGRAPHY

# BLACK HAWK

Black Hawk was born in 1767, and he was known as a warrior from a young age. After his father died, he became chief of the Sauk Native Americans. He resented settlers trying to take over his people's ancestral lands in Illinois and Wisconsin. The government tried to move his people to land set aside in Iowa, but Black Hawk and his followers ultimately did not accept this. In 1832, Black Hawk led a resistance, which resulted in bloody fighting known as the Black Hawk War.

In the end, most of Black Hawk's followers were killed, and Black Hawk surrendered in Wisconsin. This is part of the speech he made upon his surrender, which was in 1832. In the speech, he sometimes refers to himself in the third person.

"You have taken me prisoner with all my warriors. I am much grieved, for I expected, if I did not defeat you, to hold out much longer, and give you more trouble before I surrendered. I tried hard to bring you into ambush, but your last general understands Indian fighting. The first one was not so wise.

"When I saw that I could not beat you by Indian fighting, I determined to rush on you, and fight you face to face. I fought hard. But your guns were well aimed. The bullets flew like birds in the air, and whizzed by our ears like the wind through the trees in the winter. My warriors fell around me; it began to look dismal. I saw my evil day at hand.

"The sun rose dim on us in the morning, and at night it sunk in a dark cloud, and looked like a ball of fire. That was the last sun that shone on Black Hawk. His heart is dead, and no longer beats quick in his bosom. He is now a prisoner to the white men; they will do with him as they wish. But he can stand torture, and is not afraid of death. He is no coward. Black Hawk is an Indian.

"He has done nothing for which an Indian ought to be ashamed. He has fought for his countrymen, the squaws and papooses, against white men, who came, year after year, to cheat them and take away their lands. You know the cause of our making war. It is known to all white men. They ought to be ashamed of it. The white men despise the Indians, and drive them from their homes...

"Black Hawk is a true Indian, and disdains to cry like a woman. He feels for his wife, his children and friends. But he does not care for himself. He cares for his nation and the Indians. They will suffer. He laments their fate. The white men do not scalp the head; but they do worse – they poison the heart, it is not pure with them. His countrymen will not be scalped, but they will, in a few years, become like the white men, so that you can't trust them...

"Farewell, my nation. Black Hawk tried to save you, and avenge your wrongs. He drank the blood of some of the whites. He has been taken prisoner, and his plans are stopped. He can do no more. He is near his end. His sun is setting, and he will rise no more. Farewell to Black Hawk."

# 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 'dismal'.

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

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

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

e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'dismal' 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: grieved	saddened

# Sequencing

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

In 1832, Black Hawk and his followers fought the Black Hawk War.

Black hawk himself surrendered in Wisconsin.

The government tried to move Black Hawk's people to Iowa, but he resisted.

Black Hawk was born in 1767, and he became chief of the Sauk Native Americans.

Upon his surrender, Black Hawk gave a speech about how he felt his people had been treated by settlers.

During the war, most of Black Hawk's followers were killed.

Settlers were trying to take over the ancestral homes of Black Hawk's people.

# Get to the facts

1 Which Native American peoples did Black Hawk belong to?

2 When was the Black Hawk War fought?

3 What 'flew like birds in the air'?

4 What was Black Hawk not afraid of?

5 What 'looked like a ball of fire'?

# Make a story...

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

## Black Hawk surrenders

Write a newspaper story about the day Black Hawk surrendered.

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



## Understanding words:

- a Write the sentence in which you found the word 'dismal'.
- b From that sentence, suggest what 'dismal' means.
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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 – grieved                      Synonym – saddened

## Sequencing:

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

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## **Make a story...**

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# Black Hawk

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