

BRIGHAM YOUNG



BIOGRAPHY

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On June 1, 1801, Brigham Young was born in Whitingham, Vermont. His family moved to New York shortly after. Young's mother died when he was fourteen, so he looked for work to help the family. He worked as a carpenter, painter, and landscape gardener.

In 1832, Young became a Mormon by being baptized as a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He took his religion seriously and moved to Ohio to preach and work as a missionary. Then in 1835, Young was ordained an apostle and was in charge of making new Mormon settlements. In this role, he oversaw a great migration of Mormons from Missouri to Illinois.

After a brief spell as a missionary in Great Britain, Young returned to his position in the Mormon Church in America. In 1844, the leader of the Mormons, Joseph Smith, was assassinated, and Young took his place.

As the new leader, Young oversaw more migrations of Mormons. He helped 16,000 Mormons move from Illinois to Utah, and tens of thousands of Mormons move from Utah to Europe.

On top of that, Young started settlements in Utah, Wyoming, Nevada, Arizona, and California. He was crucial to the founding of Salt Lake City in Utah, which he reached in 1847 on July 24. Young also had built telegraph lines and railroads to connect Mormon settlements in Arizona, Idaho, and Nevada, and to Mormons in Salt Lake City. Brigham Young University in Idaho is named for him.

Young became a governor in Utah, and built the Mormon Tabernacle and the Salt Lake Temple. The date July 24, which is when Young reached the Salt Lake Valley in 1847, is now a Pioneer Day in Utah.

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 '**seriously**'.

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

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

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

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

Try this for other words, too. 

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: connect	join up

Sequencing

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

Young also made sure his settlements were connected by railroad and telegraph.

Brigham Young was born in Vermont, but moved to New York shortly after.

Young became more and more influential in the Mormon Church.

As part of these migrations, Young founded settlements like Salt Lake City, Utah.

Young became a Mormon and a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

While in charge, Young oversaw migrations of Mormons.

After the previous Mormon leader was assassinated, Young took over.

Get to the facts

1 How old was Brigham Young when his mother died?

2 When did Young become a Mormon?

3 Who was leader of the Mormons before Young?

4 How many Mormons moved from Illinois to Utah?

5 When did Young reach Salt Lake City?

Make a story...

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

The death of Joseph Smith

Imagine you are Brigham Young in 1844. You have just heard the terrible news of the death of Joseph Smith, the Mormon leader... (now complete the story)

Below is a plain text version for printing:

Understanding words:

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

Synonym – join up

Sequencing:

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

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- 2 When did Young become a Mormon?
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The death of Joseph Smith

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