

BUFFALO BILL CODY



BIOGRAPHY

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Buffalo Bill Cody's real name was William F. Cody, and he was born on February 26, 1846 in Iowa. He moved to Kansas when still a child, and grew up on the prairies. He started scouting for the army in Utah, where they went to investigate suggestions of a Mormon uprising in Salt Lake City.

By the time he was 14 years old, Cody was already skilled enough to start carrying messages for the Pony Express. During his time as a messenger, he had many adventures, including escaping from armed bandits.

Cody had a great memory for the places he traveled through, and so he was ideal to be a scout for the Union side during the Civil War. After the war he fought against Native Americans who were stopping the westward expansion of settlers. After the Battle of the Little Bighorn, Cody fought and killed the warrior Yellow Hair in Nebraska. In 1869, Cody took part in a battle at Summit Springs, Colorado, that saw the Cheyenne Native Americans defeated.

Cody's shooting skills led him to become a famous buffalo hunter. For a year he hunted buffalo to provide food for workers on the Union Pacific Railroad. He gained his nickname by killing thousands of buffalo on the Great Plains during this time.

As Buffalo Bill Cody's reputation increased, people wrote stories about his life that played up his Wild West adventures. Cody became the star of a theater show about this western lifestyle. It was a success, so Cody put on his own Wild West show in Chicago, Illinois. It featured re-enactments of famous events, as well as cowboys showing off their skills. It was soon also showcasing figures like Annie Oakley and Native American chief, Sitting Bull.

In 1895, Cody founded the town of Cody in Wyoming. He died in Denver, Colorado in 1917.

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 'messenger'.

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

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

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

e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'messenger' 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: bandits	robbers

Sequencing

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

Cody also became famous in battle against Native Americans.

As Cody's fame spread, he started his own Wild West show.

When he was 14 years old, Cody rode for the Pony Express.

Buffalo Bill Cody was born in 1846 in Iowa.

The show dramatized famous events in Cody's life, and starred celebrities of the day.

During the Civil War, Cody was an army scout.

Cody earned his nickname by being a good buffalo hunter.

Get to the facts

- 1 How old was Buffalo Bill Cody when he rode for the Pony Express?
- 2 Which warrior did Cody fight in Nebraska?
- 3 Which animal did Cody hunt?
- 4 Who appeared in Cody's Wild West shows?
- 5 Where was the town of Cody founded?

Make a story...

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

Wild West show

Imagine you are watching one of Buffalo Bill's Wild West shows...
(now complete the story)

Below is a plain text version for printing:

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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 – bandits Synonym – robbers

Sequencing:

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

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Wild West show

Imagine you are watching one of Buffalo's Wild West shows... (now complete the story)

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