

BUTCH CASSIDY



BIOGRAPHY

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Butch Cassidy's original name was Robert Leroy Parker, and he was born in Beaver, Utah, on April 13, 1866. He was from a large, poor family, and he left home while still a teenager in hope of a better life.

He first worked on ranches, where he met Mike Cassidy. Parker admired Cassidy, who was a known cattle and horse thief. And so he changed his own name to Butch Cassidy.

But Butch Cassidy had greater ambitions than stealing animals. He wanted to rob banks. And so, In 1889, Cassidy and accomplices stole \$20,000 from a bank in Colorado. Cassidy used the money to buy a ranch in Wyoming. There he went back to cattle rustling, which landed him in jail for two years.

After his release, Cassidy formed the Wild Bunch gang. He teamed up with Harry Longabaugh, who was called the Sundance Kid, and three other criminals. They then embarked on a series of daring bank and train robberies.

They first robbed a bank in Idaho in 1896, before committing other robberies in New Mexico and Wyoming. Like many criminals of the time, the Wild Bunch hid at Hole-in-the-Wall Pass in Wyoming between raids.

As the robberies became ever bigger and more dramatic, Butch Cassidy's fame grew. The robberies caused a great problem for the railroad companies, who were desperate to stop the gang. In the end, the Union Pacific Railroad company got law enforcement involved. They searched for Butch Cassidy and the gang, who were eventually driven into South America. It is believed that Butch Cassidy lost his life there in a gunfight in 1908.

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 '**ambitions**'.

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

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

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

e Draw a small picture showing what you think '**ambitions**' 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: daring	bold

Sequencing

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

When still a teenager, Butch Cassidy left home, and started working on ranches.

Butch Cassidy and the Wild Bunch were eventually hunted down in South America.

The gang robbed trains and banks, which made them notorious.

Butch Cassidy was born in Utah in 1866 to a large, poor family.

Butch Cassidy's first bank robbery was in Colorado, and he used the money to buy a ranch in Wyoming.

Butch Cassidy formed the Wild Bunch gang, which included the Sundance Kid.

The robberies caused problems for the railroad companies, who took action.

Get to the facts

1 What was Butch Cassidy's original name?

2 How much did Butch Cassidy steal in Colorado?

3 Where did Cassidy buy a ranch?

4 What was Harry Longabaugh's nickname?

5 Where did the Wild Bunch gang hide out?

Make a story...

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

Wanted!

Write a wanted poster for Butch Cassidy. You should say what he is wanted for, and how much money is being offered as a reward.

Below is a plain text version for printing:

Understanding words:

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

Sequencing:

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Get to the facts:

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