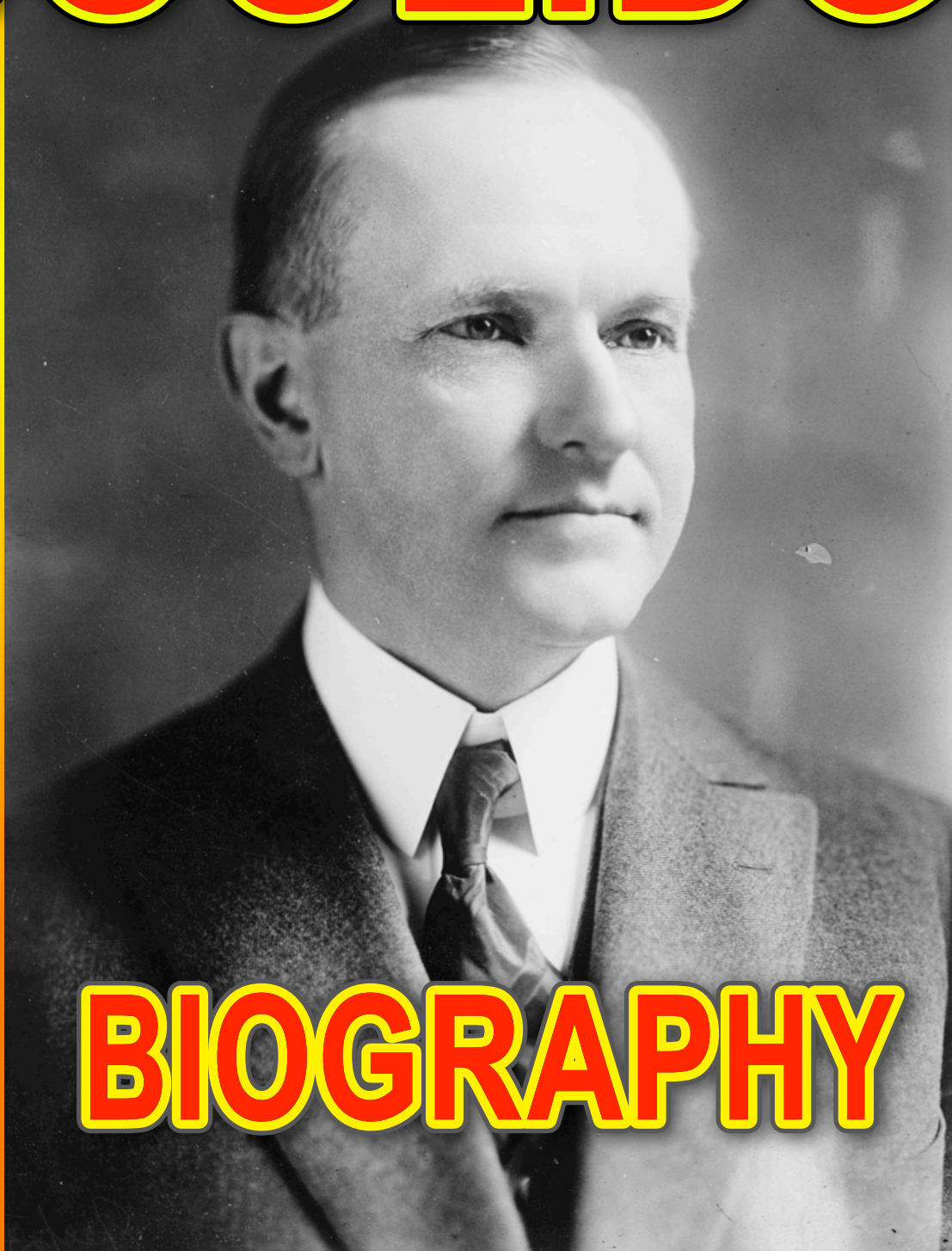


CALVIN COOLIDGE



BIOGRAPHY

CALVIN COOLIDGE

John Calvin Coolidge, Jr. (July 4, 1872 – January 5, 1933) was born in Vermont and became a Massachusetts lawyer. He joined the Republican Party and became Governor of Massachusetts.

In 1914, Coolidge made a speech known as "Have faith in Massachusetts", which showed he was in support of small-town government and less influence by the federal government. Coolidge had this speech and others published, which meant people became familiar with his ideas.

A Boston Police Strike of 1919 brought national attention, and when he put it down he was seen as a man who could make decisions and get things done.

Coolidge was first vice president, and then he succeeded to the Presidency when Warren Harding died in 1923. He then got elected in 1924. His main task, after the Harding era, was to restore public confidence in the White House.

His policies were against too much involvement overseas, and in favour of civil rights. In his first year in office, Coolidge put through the Indian Citizenship Act, which made Native Americans citizens and allowed them to keep their tribal lands. By the time his term was over, he was nationally popular, but he did not wish to run for a second term as president.

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 'confidence'.

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

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

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

e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'confidence' 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: restore	rebuild

Sequencing

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

After this, Coolidge became vice president, then president.

In 1919, Coolidge effectively dealt with the Boston Police Strike.

John Calvin Coolidge was born in Vermont, and became a lawyer.

In 1914, Coolidge made a speech about Massachusetts.

After his first term, Coolidge was popular, but he didn't want a second term.

As president, Coolidge supported civil rights.

Then Coolidge became Governor of Massachusetts.

Get to the facts

1 When was Coolidge born?

2 Which state was Coolidge governor of?

3 Which speech did Coolidge make in 1914?

4 What brought attention to Coolidge in 1919?

5 Who was president before Coolidge?

Make a story...

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

A messenger

Calvin Coolidge was staying with his parents in Vermont when President Harding died. His parents' house did not have electricity or a telephone, and the news reached Coolidge by messenger. Imagine you are in the house, when you hear an urgent knock on the front door... (now complete the story)

Below is a plain text version for printing:

Understanding words:

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

Sequencing:

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

After this, Coolidge became vice president, then president.

In 1919, Coolidge effectively dealt with the Boston Police Strike.

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