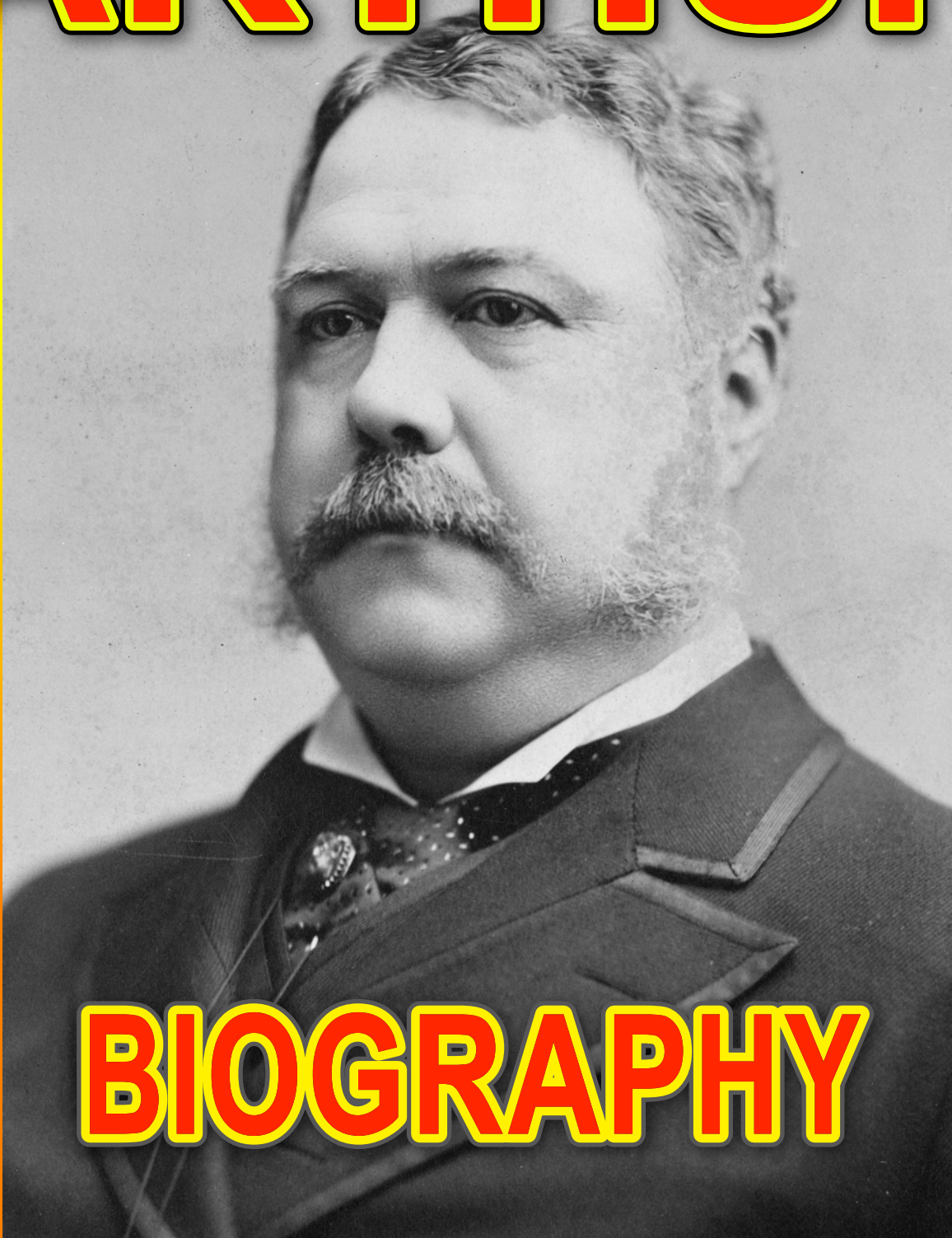


CHESTER ARTHUR



BIOGRAPHY

CHESTER ARTHUR

Chester Alan Arthur (October 5, 1829 – November 18, 1886) was born in Vermont and practised law in New York City.

He was in the Union Army during the American Civil War. He then went into the Republican party. But when President Garfield was assassinated, Arthur became president.

As president, Arthur started on civil service reform and helped to rebuild the navy. But he always suffered from poor health.

Nevertheless, at the end of his presidency he was widely respected by people from all parties, something that had not happened for many decades. He was a steady hand on the tiller, not seeking to do anything that would alarm people. It was a welcome relief after so many years of turmoil.

Arthur was not nominated for a second term as president, and he went back to being a lawyer in New York City. On November 1886, Arthur died, after being ill for many years.

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 'rebuild'.

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

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

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

e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'rebuild' 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: turmoil	disruption

Sequencing

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

First, Arthur became a lawyer in New York City.

In 1886, Arthur died, after being ill for many years.

When President Garfield was assassinated, Arthur became president.

Later Arthur was in the Union Army during the Civil War.

Chester Arthur was born in Vermont.

As president, Arthur worked to reform the civil service and rebuild the navy.

After that, Arthur joined the Republican Party.

Get to the facts

1 Where was Arthur born?

2 Which army was Arthur in during the Civil War?

3 Which party did Arthur join?

4 What did Arthur help to rebuild as president?

5 When did Arthur die?

Make a story...

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

Becoming president

Imagine you are Chester Arthur. You have just received the news that the previous president, Garfield, has been assassinated, and that you will be president next... (now complete the story)

Below is a plain text version for printing:

Understanding words:

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

Sequencing:

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

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