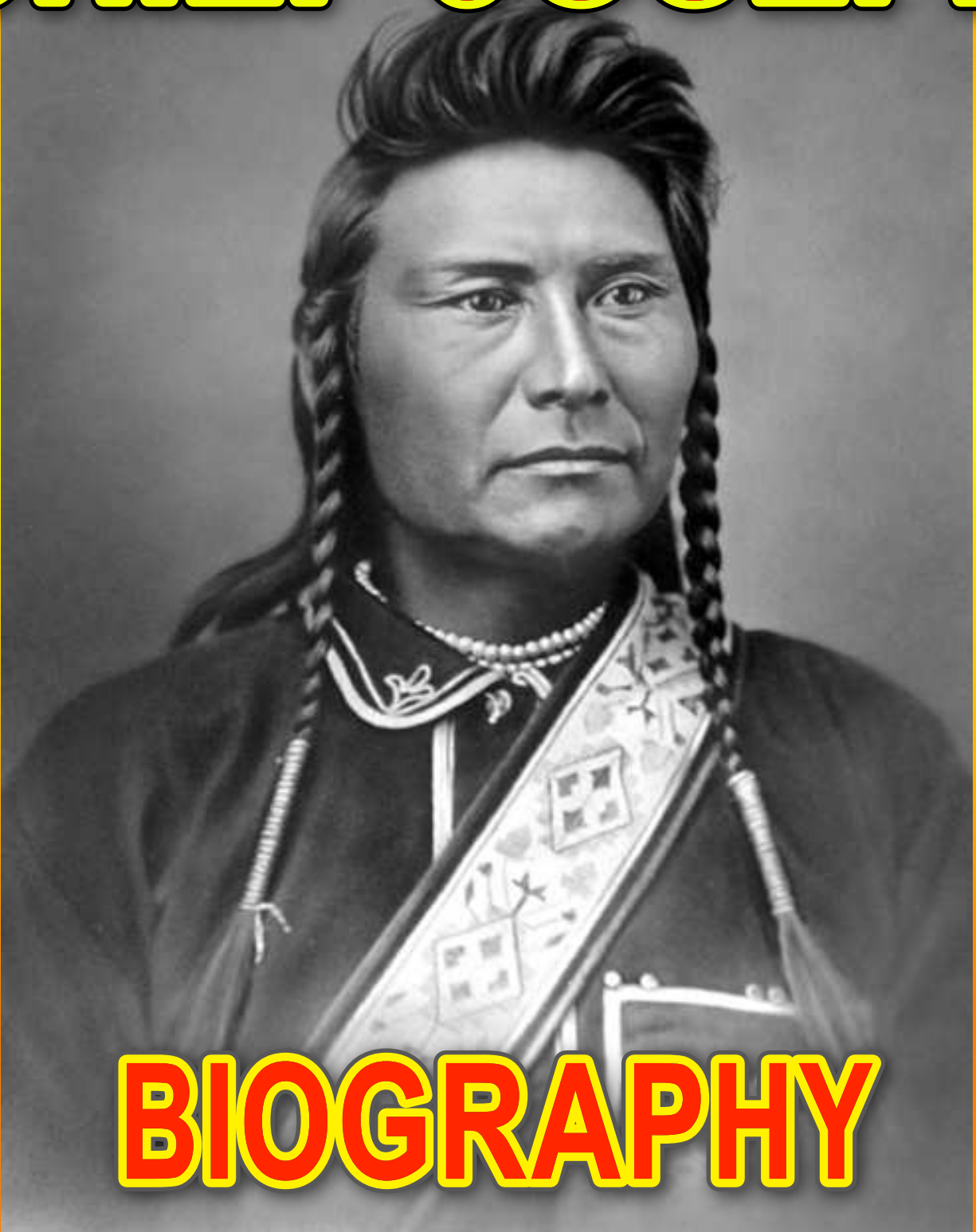


CHIEF JOSEPH



BIOGRAPHY

CHIEF JOSEPH

Chief Joseph was a Nez Perce Native American born in 1840 in the Wallowa Valley in Oregon. His father had converted to Christianity, and allowed the American government to set up for his people a large reservation covering areas of Oregon and Idaho. But then a gold rush brought more incomers to the area, and the government wanted to make the reservation area smaller so that it covered just part of Idaho. In response, Joseph's father renounced Christianity, and refused to recognize the new reservation borders.

Joseph became chief when his father died in 1871. At first, Chief Joseph also refused to accept the reservation borders, and he did not move his people into the new area. But then the army threatened to force them, so Joseph decided to move. On the way, some of his people carried out raids on settlements. This made the army even more determined to chase down Joseph and his men.

Chief Joseph decided his men should look for asylum in Canada, so they retreated north. For three months, the army marched after Chief Joseph and his men, who resisted capture. His resistance made him nationally famous. But by October 1877, he and his people could resist no longer, and Chief Joseph surrendered.

Joseph thought he would be allowed to live on the reservation in Idaho, but they were taken to what is now Oklahoma. There many of his people died from starvation and disease. Joseph desperately wanted to go back to his homeland, and he even visited President Rutherford B. Hayes in 1879 to ask if he could return.

But it was not to be. In 1885, Chief Joseph and half of his men were taken to a reservation in Washington, which meant they were excluded from their homeland and the rest of their people. Chief Joseph died there in 1904.

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 'excluded'.

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

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

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

e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'excluded' 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: famous	well-known

Sequencing

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

Chief Joseph led his people in a retreat north towards Canada, and fought against the U.S soldiers who followed them.

But after a few months, Chief Joseph surrendered.

Chief Joseph was eventually taken to a reservation in Washington, where he died in 1904.

When Joseph's father died, he became chief, and he carried on the resistance.

Joseph's father was friendly with the American settlers at first, but then resisted them when they wanted to take away his people's land.

Chief Joseph was born in the Wallowa Valley in 1840.

But when the American army threatened to force them to move, Chief Joseph went of his own accord.

Get to the facts

1 Where was Chief Joseph born?

2 When did Joseph become a chief?

3 Where did Joseph look for asylum?

4 When did Joseph surrender?

5 Where did Joseph die?

Make a story...

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

Meeting the president

Imagine you are Chief Joseph. You have gone to visit President Rutherford B. Hayes. Now it's time for you to tell him why you want to go back to your homeland...(now complete the story)

Below is a plain text version for printing:

Understanding words:

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

Sequencing:

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

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But after a few months, Chief Joseph surrendered.

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Joseph's father was friendly with the American settlers at first, but then resisted them when they wanted to take away his people's land.

Chief Joseph was born in the Wallowa Valley in 1840.

But when the American army threatened to force them to move, Chief Joseph went of his own accord.

Get to the facts:

- 1 Where was Chief Joseph born?
- 2 When did Joseph become a chief?
- 3 Where did Joseph look for asylum?
- 4 When did Joseph surrender?
- 5 Where did Joseph die?

Make a story...

Meeting the president

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Chief Joseph

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