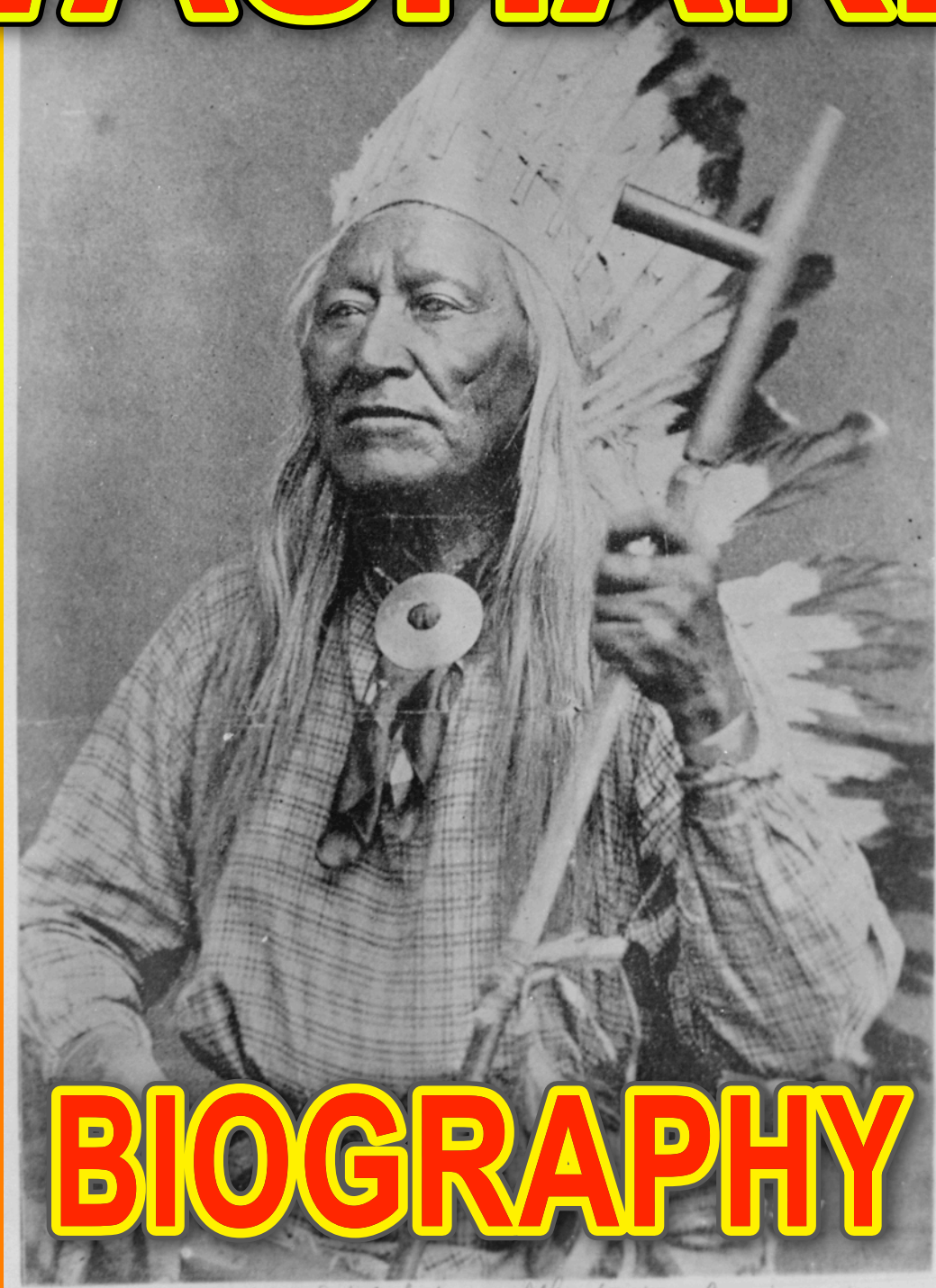


# CHIEF WASHAKIE



## BIOGRAPHY

# CHIEF WASHAKIE

Chief Washakie was born around 1800 in Montana. As a teenager he joined his mother's tribe – the Eastern Band of the Shoshone, who mostly lived in Wyoming. By 1850, he had become their chief. But he faced a difficult situation, for incomers were moving through or settling his people's ancestral lands.

At first, Chief Washakie and his followers resisted this by attacking stopping points along the Oregon Trail, and making it hard for travelers to survive. But settlers continued to pour into the area. In the end, Washakie thought that fighting back would be useless. And so, he started showing kindness to the settlers by helping them cross rivers and find food. He became friends with fur traders like Jim Bridger, and later the Mormon leader Brigham Young.

But then in 1862, some of Washakie's followers joined forces with Bannock Native Americans to attack new settlements. The settlers fought back, defeating the Bannocks at Bear River. Then Washakie went to Fort Bridger in Wyoming to negotiate with settlers. He signed a treaty that surrendered the Green River Valley covering eastern Utah and southern Wyoming, so that the Union Pacific Railroad could be built through the area.

In return, Washakie was allowed to choose where his people should live. He chose Warm Valley in the Wind River Mountains, and this was where a reservation for his people and other Native American groups was established. Washakie also gave land to religious leaders so that they could set up schools for young Native Americans.

But it was not all as peaceful as it seemed. The government took more and more of Shoshone land, and settlers hunted so much buffalo that his people began to starve. They were forced to rely more on farming and ranching, which were seen as a way of life imposed by the settlers. Chief Washakie continued to be a spokesperson for his people until his death in February 1900.

# 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 'ancestral'.

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

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

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

e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'ancestral' 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: surrendered	<u>gave up</u>

# Sequencing

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

In the 1860s, Washakie negotiated with settlers so that his people could be on a reservation where they wanted.

Washakie also allowed schools to be built to educate his people.

Settlers passed through the tribe's ancestral lands, and Washakie resisted at first.

Washakie joined his mother's tribe, the Shoshone, and became their chief.

The settlers took more and more of Washakie's land, but Washakie remained a spokesperson for his people until his death in 1900.

Chief Washakie was born around 1800 in Montana.

But then Washakie showed kindness to the settlers, as he thought resistance would be futile.

# Get to the facts

1 Which Native American tribe did Washakie join?

2 Which tribe did Washakie join forces with in 1862?

3 Where did Washakie sign a treaty?

4 Where did Washakie choose to live?

5 When did Washakie die?

# Make a story...

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

## After the treaty

Imagine you are Chief Washakie. You have signed the treaty at Fort Bridger, and now must explain to your people why you signed it...(now complete the story)

**Below is a plain text version for printing:**

## Understanding words:

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

## Sequencing:

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

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## **Get to the facts:**

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## **Make a story...**

### **After the treaty**

Imagine you are Chief Washakie. You have signed the treaty at Fort Bridger, and now must explain to your people why you signed it... (now complete the story)

# Chief Washakie

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