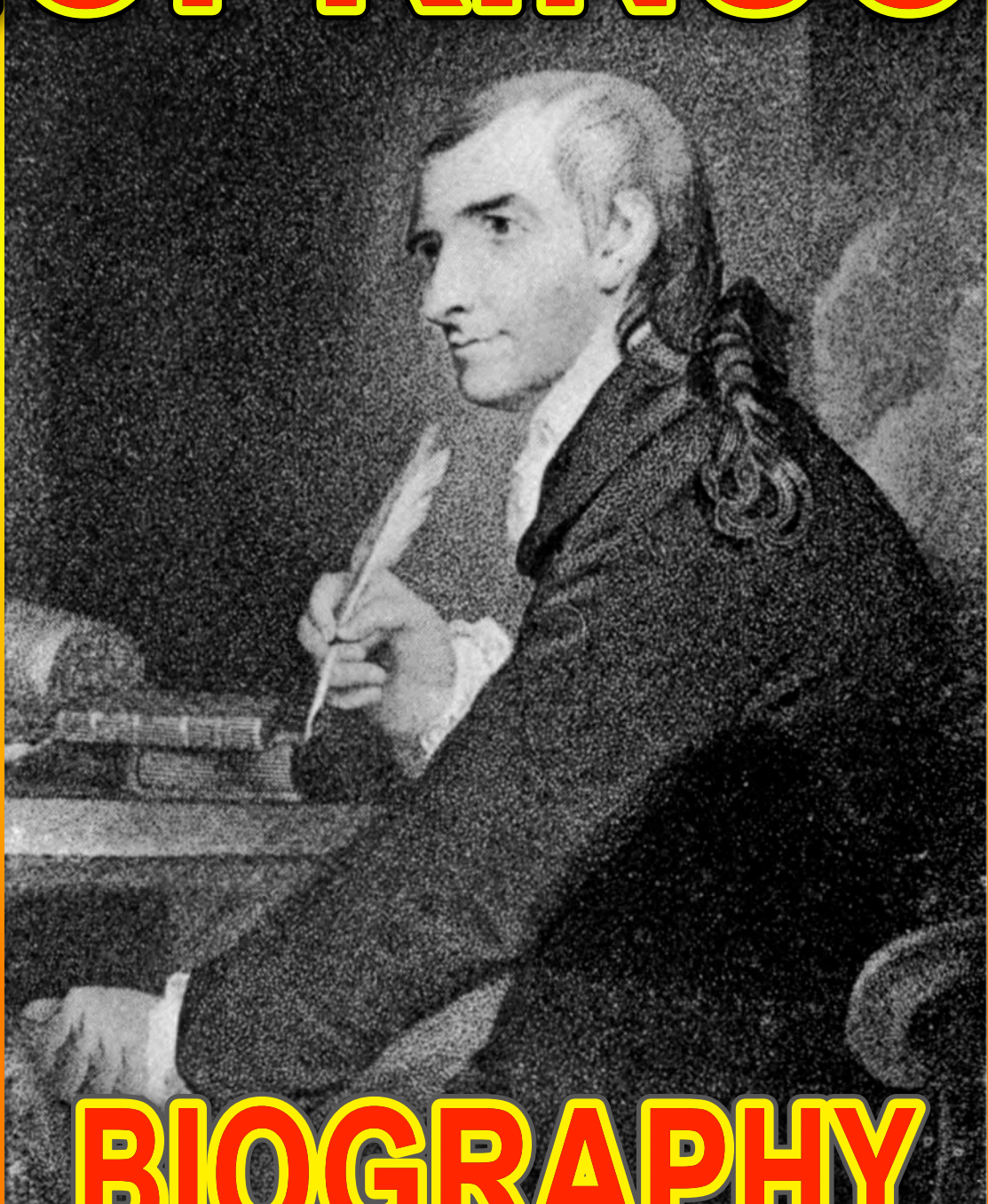


# FRANCIS HOPKINSON



## BIOGRAPHY

# FRANCIS HOPKINSON

Born in 1737 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Francis Hopkinson was a bright and talented man who contributed to the founding of the United States after it gained independence from Britain. Hopkinson was educated in law in Philadelphia, and went on to become a customs officer in Delaware.

During the American Revolution, Hopkinson supported independence, believing that a strong government for the new American nation was crucial. While the war was underway, Hopkinson held various public offices, including as a judge in Pennsylvania.

Hopkinson had a talent for music, so he wrote wartime patriotic songs, such as "The Battle of the Kegs". It referred to a time when barrels of gunpowder floated down the Delaware River, and caused panic on the British ships moored there. Hopkinson also wrote satirical pieces of writing.

In 1776, Hopkinson represented New Jersey at the Continental Congress, and he signed the Declaration of Independence. In 1787, there was a convention to decide on a constitution for the new United States. Hopkinson actively supported the proposed constitution, though others wanted a less powerful central government. But Hopkinson's side won out in the end, when the Constitution was made official. Hopkinson also worked on designs for the United States flag and Great Seal.

In later life, Hopkinson was a district judge in Pennsylvania until the time of his death on May 9, 1791.

# 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 'independence'.

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

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

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

e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'independence' 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: crucial	essential

# Sequencing

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

Later on, Hopkinson worked on designs for the United States flag and Great Seal.

Hopkinson studied law, and became a customs officer in Delaware.

When the Revolutionary War broke out, Hopkinson held various public offices.

Francis Hopkinson was born in Philadelphia in 1737.

Then Hopkinson supported the proposed constitution for America, even though others were against it.

Hopkinson also wrote patriotic wartime songs and satirical writing.

In 1776, Hopkins signed the Declaration of Independence.

# Get to the facts

1 Where was Francis Hopkinson born?

2 Where was Hopkinson a customs officer?

3 Which song referred to floating barrels of gunpowder?

4 What did Hopkinson sign in 1776?

5 Which state did Hopkinson represent at the Continental Congress?

# Make a story...

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

## The Battle of the Kegs

Imagine you are on board a British ship on the Delaware River during the Revolutionary War. One night, you see barrels full of gunpowder floating towards your ship... (now complete the story)

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



## Understanding words:

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

Synonym – essential

## Sequencing:

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

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Hopkinson studied law, and became a customs officer in Delaware.

When the Revolutionary War broke out, Hopkinson held various public offices.

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- 3 Which song referred to floating barrels of gunpowder?
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## **Make a story...**

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