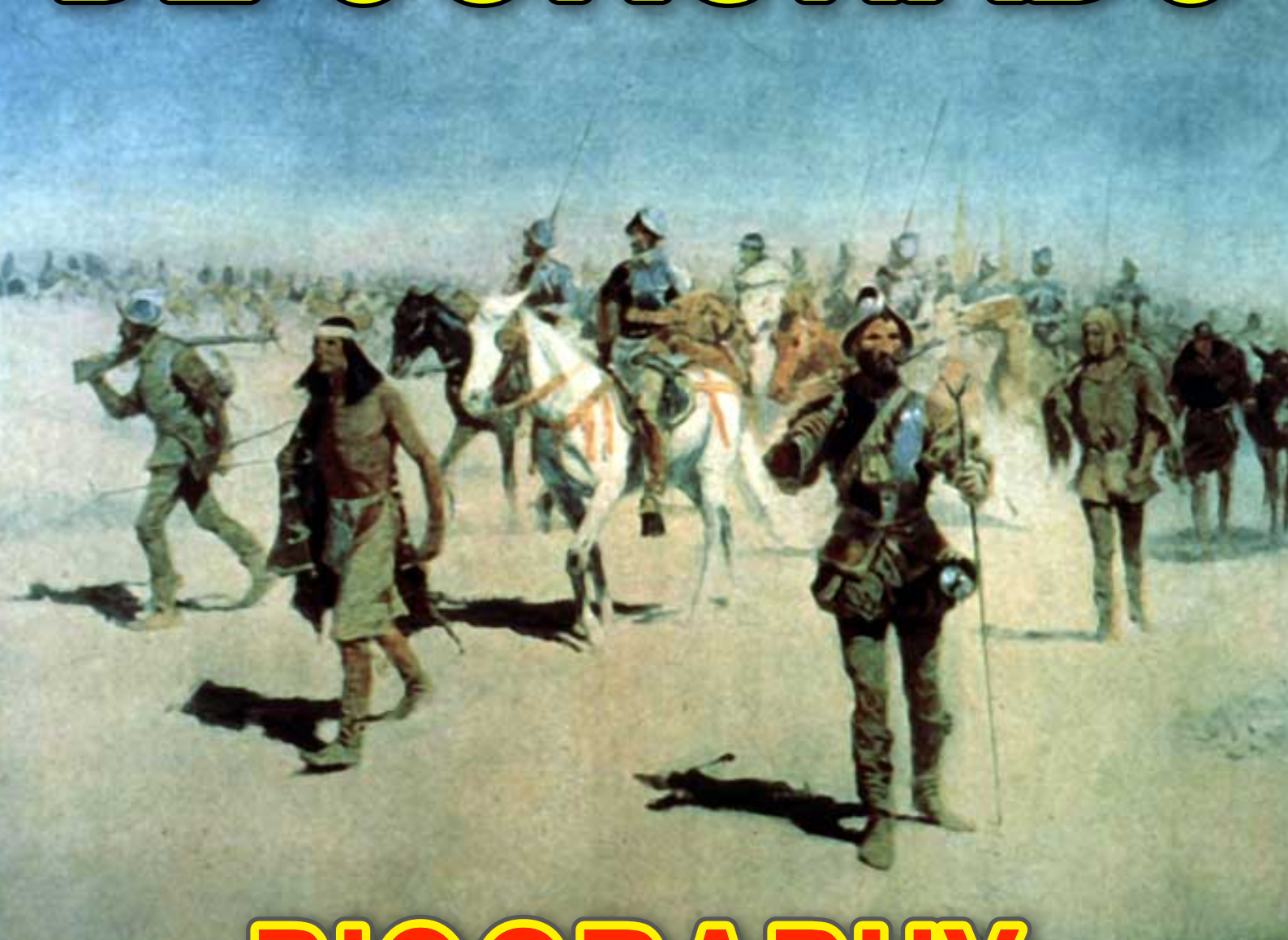


FRANCISCO DE CORONADO



BIOGRAPHY

FRANCISCO DE CORONADO

Francisco Vázquez de Coronado was an explorer and conquistador born in Spain around 1510. Although he came from a rich family, he was not to inherit the wealth, so he set off to the New World to find his own fortune. Once in Mexico, de Coronado worked for the government in the Spanish colonies there.

In the 1530s, explorer Cabeza de Vaca and survivors from his expedition finally reached the colonies. One of the four survivors spread a rumor that Native Americans living in the upper valley of the Rio Grande had seven cities of gold. De Coronado heard the rumor, and in 1540 he organized an expeditionary force made up of around 300 Spanish soldiers and 1,000 Native Americans to investigate.

But every time the expedition questioned local people, they were told the golden cities were just a bit farther on. Coronado and his invaders traveled all over what is now New Mexico, Arizona, Kansas, Oklahoma, and the northern part of Texas (the Panhandle). Part of his expedition even went as far as the Colorado River and the Grand Canyon.

They found neither gold nor silver, but they stole whatever they could find – food, blankets, and even the clothes off the Native Americans' backs. After two years they returned to Mexico without the treasure they had sought.

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 'inherit'.

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

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

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

e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'inherit' means.

Try this for other words, too. 2

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: sought	looked for

Sequencing

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

And so de Coronado led an expedition that traveled far and wide in search of the golden cities.

Although de Coronado came from a wealthy family, he would not inherit the wealth.

Francisco Vázquez de Coronado was born in Spain around 1510.

First, de Coronado worked for the colonial government.

But the golden cities turned out to be a myth, and de Coronado returned to Mexico without the treasure he had wanted.

Then he heard a rumor about seven cities of gold farther north.

So de Coronado went to the New World to seek his own fortune.

Get to the facts

1 Where was de Coronado born?

2 Where did de Coronado go to seek his fortune?

3 How many cities of gold did de Coronado hear about?

4 How many Spanish soldiers did de Coronado's expedition have?

5 Which river did the expedition reach?

Make a story...

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

Seven cities of gold

I lived in a village north of Mexico. One day an expedition of Spanish explorers arrived and asked about the seven cities of gold. All the explorers ask us that. I smiled, and said... (now complete the story)

Below is a plain text version for printing:

Understanding words:

- a Write the sentence in which you found the word 'inherit'.
- b From that sentence, suggest what 'inherit' means.
- c Write a new sentence using the word 'inherit'.
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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 – sought Synonym – looked for

Sequencing:

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

And so de Coronado led an expedition that traveled far and wide in search of the golden cities.

Although de Coronado came from a wealthy family, he could not inherit the wealth.

Francisco Vásquez de Coronado was born in Spain around 1510.

First, de Coronado worked for the colonial government.

But the golden cities turned out to be a myth, and de Coronado returned to Mexico without the treasure he had wanted.

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