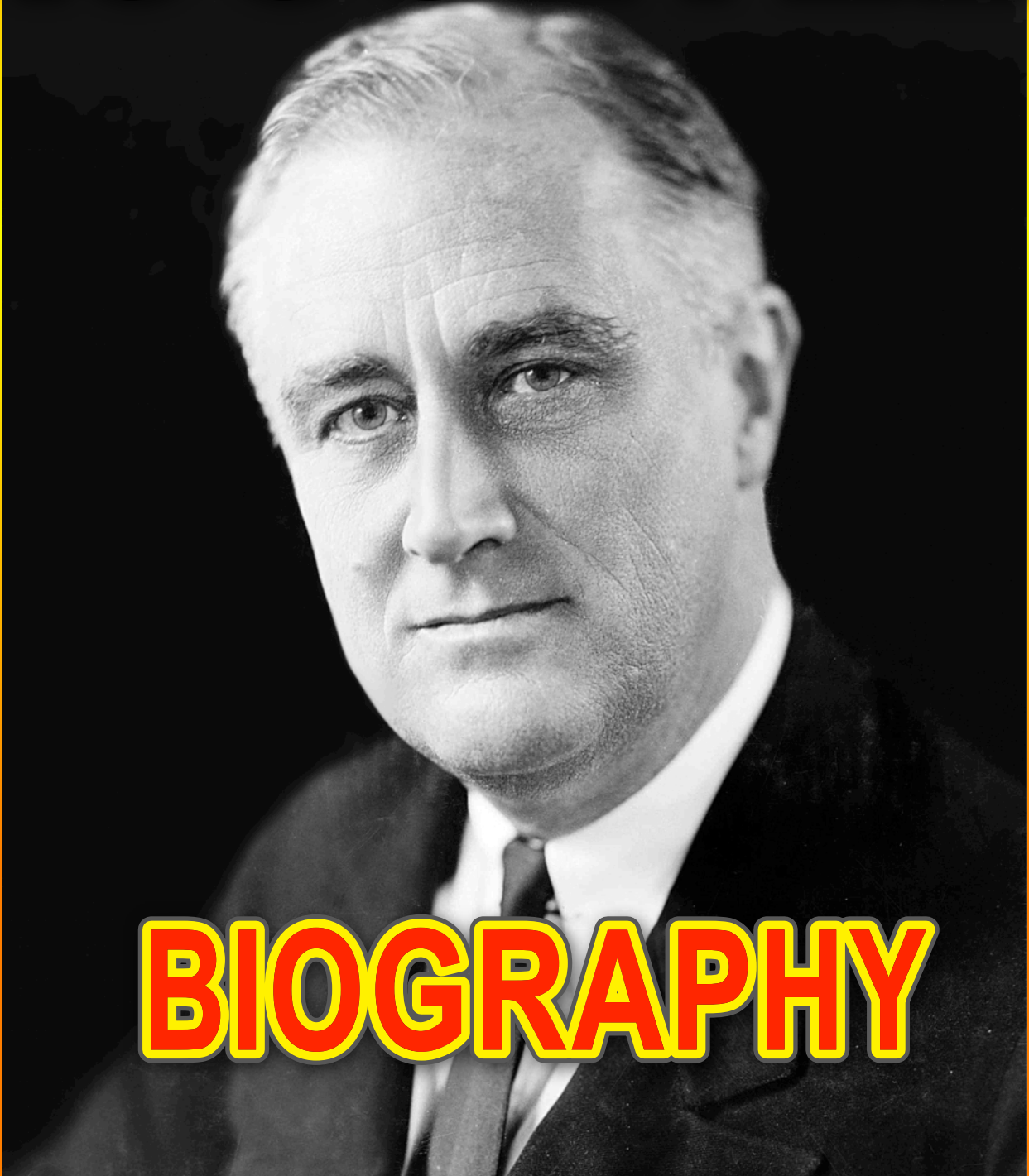


FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT



BIOGRAPHY

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Franklin Delano Roosevelt (January 30, 1882 – April 12, 1945), who was mostly known as FDR, was eventually considered as one of the greatest presidents of all time, and that was despite suffering from polio when he was young. He later set up a polio treatment center in Warm Springs, Georgia.

He was born to a wealthy New York family that had roots going back to the American Revolution. FDR was a Democrat, and was elected four times from 1932, so that he served from March 1933 until he died in April 1945. This made him the longest-serving president.

He came to office at a difficult time, just after the Great Depression had started. While Hoover lost his presidency because of this, Roosevelt came in promising that he could put things right. He called it “The New Deal”. His campaign team used the song “Happy Days Are Here Again” to make people feel better about their future. FDR was a naturally optimistic person, which was just what was needed at the time.

The New Deal involved many federal programs designed to give more government jobs to the millions of people who found themselves suddenly unemployed as a result of the Depression. He continued using government contracts to rebuild the economy and, as a result, life did improve between 1933 and 1937, only to fall back into a recession again when World War II broke out.

In some ways the war was helpful in so far as it produced a huge demand for military equipment, and this created many jobs. America was also producing things not just for itself, but for war-torn Britain. He could also see that Britain was nearly bankrupted after World War I and now World War II, so he arranged for loans to be given so that the British could buy American goods they so badly needed. It was called "Lend-Lease".

As in the time of World War I, Roosevelt tried to keep America out of the war for as long as possible even though he was supporting Britain and China. But in 1941, when the Japanese signed a pact with Germany and then attacked Pearl Harbor, war was thrust upon the United States.

Once the U.S. had entered the war, Roosevelt helped to bring America's formidable war machine into top gear. Now America was fighting on two fronts, one in Europe, one in the Pacific. It was during Roosevelt's presidency that the nuclear bomb was developed. During the war, sixteen million men and a third of a million women went on active service.

FDR's work at forging partnerships was later seen in the development of the United Nations, although he did not live to see this. Many people think of FDR as just as important a president to American history as George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

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 'war-torn'.

b From that sentence, suggest what 'war-torn' means.

c Write a new sentence using the word 'war-torn'.

d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'war-torn'.

e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'war-torn' 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: forging	making

Sequencing

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

But the start of World War II brought about recession again.

As president, Roosevelt came up with the New Deal.

But after Pearl Harbor, Roosevelt felt that America had to join the war.

The New Deal meant that things improved between 1933 and 1937.

Roosevelt became president just after the Great Depression had started.

Franklin D. Roosevelt came from a wealthy New York family.

At first, Roosevelt did not want to get involved in the war.

Get to the facts

1 What was Franklin D. Roosevelt mostly known as?

2 How many times was Roosevelt elected?

3 Which song did Roosevelt use in his campaign?

4 Which country was Roosevelt supporting during World War II?

5 Which harbor did the Japanese attack?

Make a story...

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

Pearl Harbor

Imagine you are a U.S. marine at Pearl Harbor during the Japanese attack. You look out into the sky and see a plane you don't recognize coming towards the harbor... (now complete the story)

Below is a plain text version for printing:

Understanding words:

- a Write the sentence in which you found the word 'war-torn'.
- b From that sentence, suggest what 'war-torn' means.
- c Write a new sentence using the word 'war-torn'.
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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 – forging Synonym – making

Sequencing:

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

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