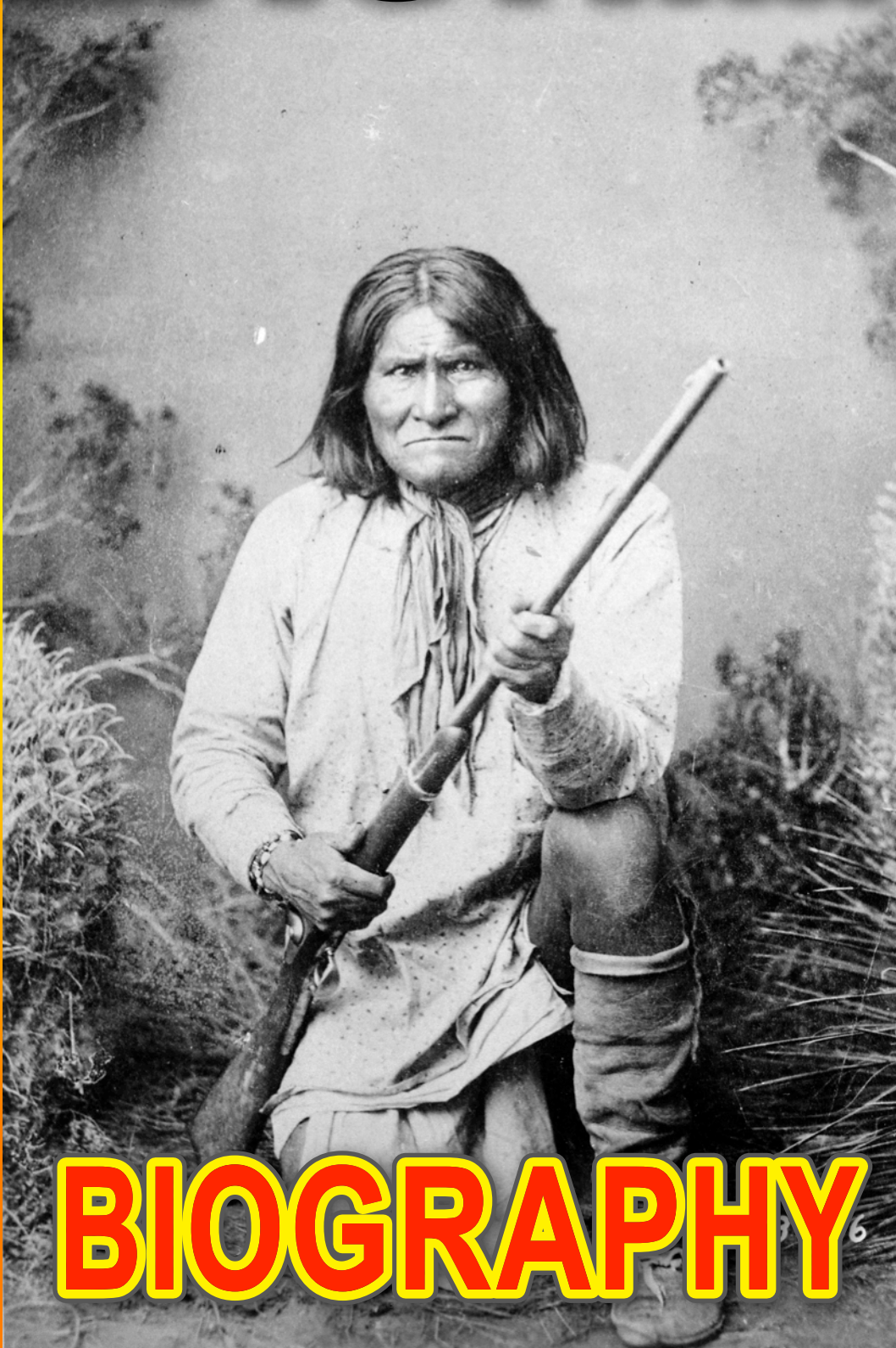


GERONIMO



BIOGRAPHY

GERONIMO

Geronimo was born in 1829 and grew up in an area that is now Arizona and New Mexico, but was under Mexican control at the time. He was an Apache who became a skilled hunter and warrior from an early age.

As a young man, Geronimo led raids against the Mexicans. One day he came home to find that Mexican troops had killed his mother, wife and children. The deaths devastated Geronimo, who determined to take revenge. And so for ten years, Geronimo and some followers hunted down and killed Mexican troops.

When the Mexican-American War ended, much of Geronimo's homeland was claimed by the United States. The Americans built the San Carlos Reservation in Arizona, and forced Apaches to stay there. The idea was for the Apaches to farm the land and live there permanently. But this went against their nature, and they accepted only food rations to survive.

Geronimo and some followers managed to escape the reservation, and hid from the Americans for years. General after general from the American Army searched in vain for Geronimo, who knew the landscape better than the American settlers. He therefore knew where to hide and how best to travel about and avoid his enemies.

But Geronimo and his followers could not escape capture forever. In 1886, Geronimo finally surrendered to the Americans, after they told him that the rest of his people had surrendered already. Geronimo then spent nearly thirty years in prisons and reservations in Florida, Alabama, and Oklahoma.

By the time he was captured, Geronimo had become a kind of celebrity. He appeared at the World's Fair in Saint Louis, and in President Theodore Roosevelt's inauguration parade.

In 1909, Geronimo fell from his horse while out riding. This was on a cold night in February, and he was out in the open until a friend found him the day after. Geronimo became ill after that, and he died days later.

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 'control'.

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

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

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

e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'control' 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: troops	soldiers

Sequencing

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

But eventually Geronimo was captured and imprisoned.

Later on, the United States of America took over the land.

Geronimo was born in 1829, and grew up in what is now Arizona and New Mexico.

By this time, Geronimo had become a legend.

Geronimo escaped and avoided being captured for years.

As a young man, Geronimo attacked Mexican troops, who were in control of the land at the time.

The Americans put Geronimo and other Apaches on reservations.

Get to the facts

1 Where did Geronimo grow up?

2 Which reservation were the Apaches moved to?

3 When did Geronimo finally surrender?

4 Which fair did Geronimo appear in?

5 When did Geronimo die?

Make a story...

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

On the run

I was running away from the Americans in the Arizona desert. I saw them on the horizon, so I hid behind some rocks as they came closer... (now complete the story)

Below is a plain text version for printing:

Understanding words:

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

Sequencing:

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

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Geronimo was born in 1829 and grew up in what is now Arizona and New Mexico.

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Make a story...

On the run

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Geronimo

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