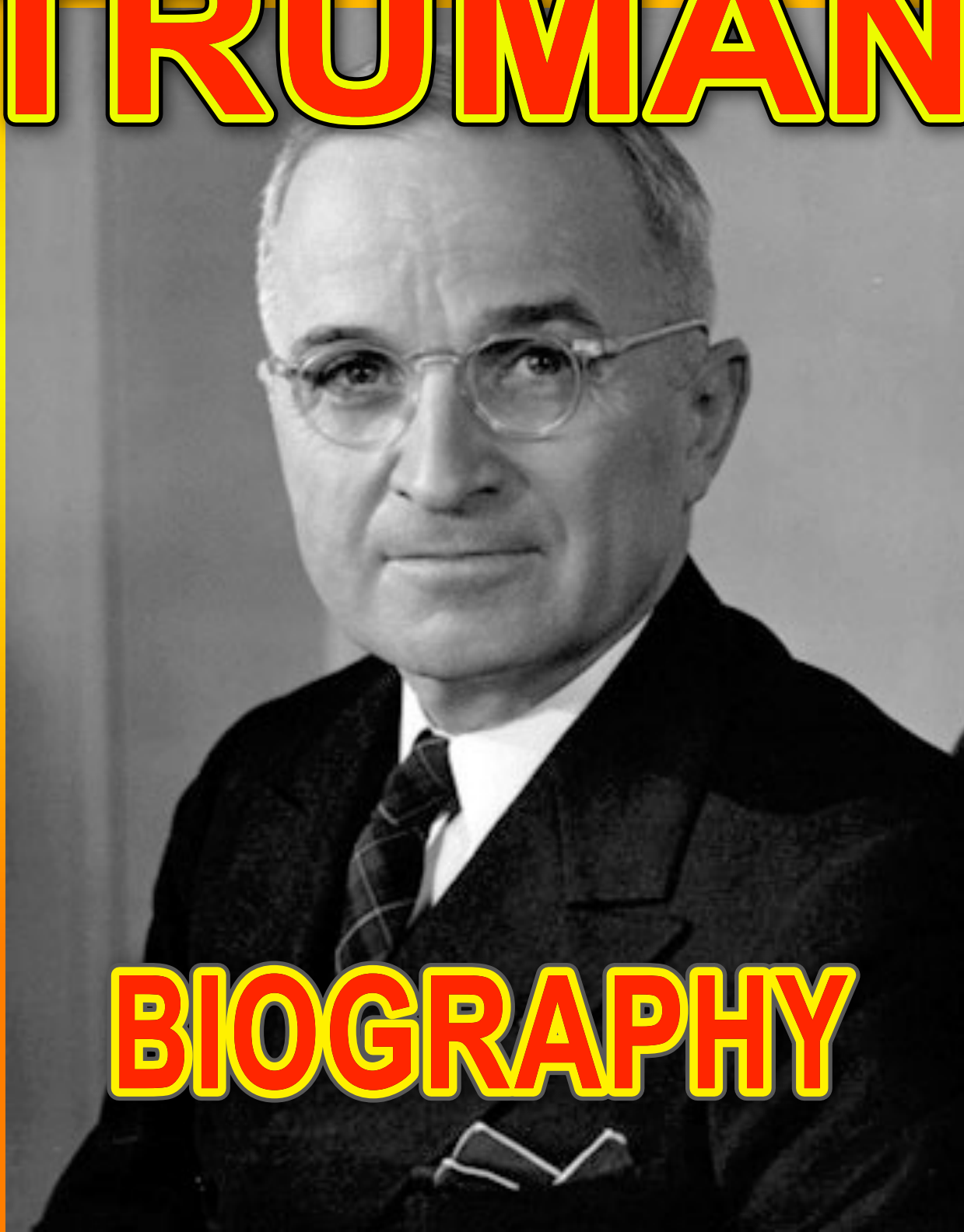


HARRY TRUMAN



BIOGRAPHY

HARRY TRUMAN

Harry S. Truman (May 8, 1884 – December 26, 1972) was born in Missouri on the family farm. He served in the U.S. Army in Europe in World War I. He then became a Democrat and was elected as U.S. Senator in 1935.

He was vice president to President Franklin D. Roosevelt when Roosevelt died on April 12, 1945. It was left to Truman to direct the successful winning of the wars in Europe and the Pacific. It was Truman who approved the use of dropping atomic bombs on cities in Japan. His purpose was to bring the war to a swift conclusion and save many American service lives having to invade Japan. In this he was successful.

Truman became much more involved in foreign affairs and set up the United Nations with its headquarters in New York City. He realised that European countries could not rebuild themselves without help after the war and so he authorized the \$13 billion Marshall Plan to rebuild Europe. He was wise enough to see that he had to rebuild Germany as well, so that a repeat of the mistakes made after World War I would not be repeated.

However, he had little time to relax because relations with the Soviet Union soon became difficult as the Soviet Union sought to become more powerful. This led to the long period called the Cold War. He helped create NATO in 1949. He also sent troops to the Korean War.

Truman retired after one term as president, and moved to Independence, Missouri, where he died on December 26, 1972.

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 'authorized'.

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

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

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

e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'authorized' 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: swift	quick

Sequencing

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

As president, Truman aimed to quickly end the wars in Europe and the Pacific.

Truman was vice president to Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Harry Truman was born in Missouri.

But the Soviet Union then sought more power, and the Cold War began.

When Roosevelt died, Truman took up the presidency.

After the war, Truman helped set up the United Nations.

Later, Truman was in the army in World War I.

Get to the facts

1 When was Truman elected U.S. Senator?

2 Who was Truman vice president to?

3 Where were atomic bombs dropped?

4 Where were the UN headquarters?

5 What did Truman help to create in 1949?

Make a story...

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

Leaving office

Imagine you are Harry Truman. Write a diary entry for the day you leave office as president. You could write about all the things you have done while president and how you feel about them... (now complete the story)

Below is a plain text version for printing:

Understanding words:

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

Sequencing:

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

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