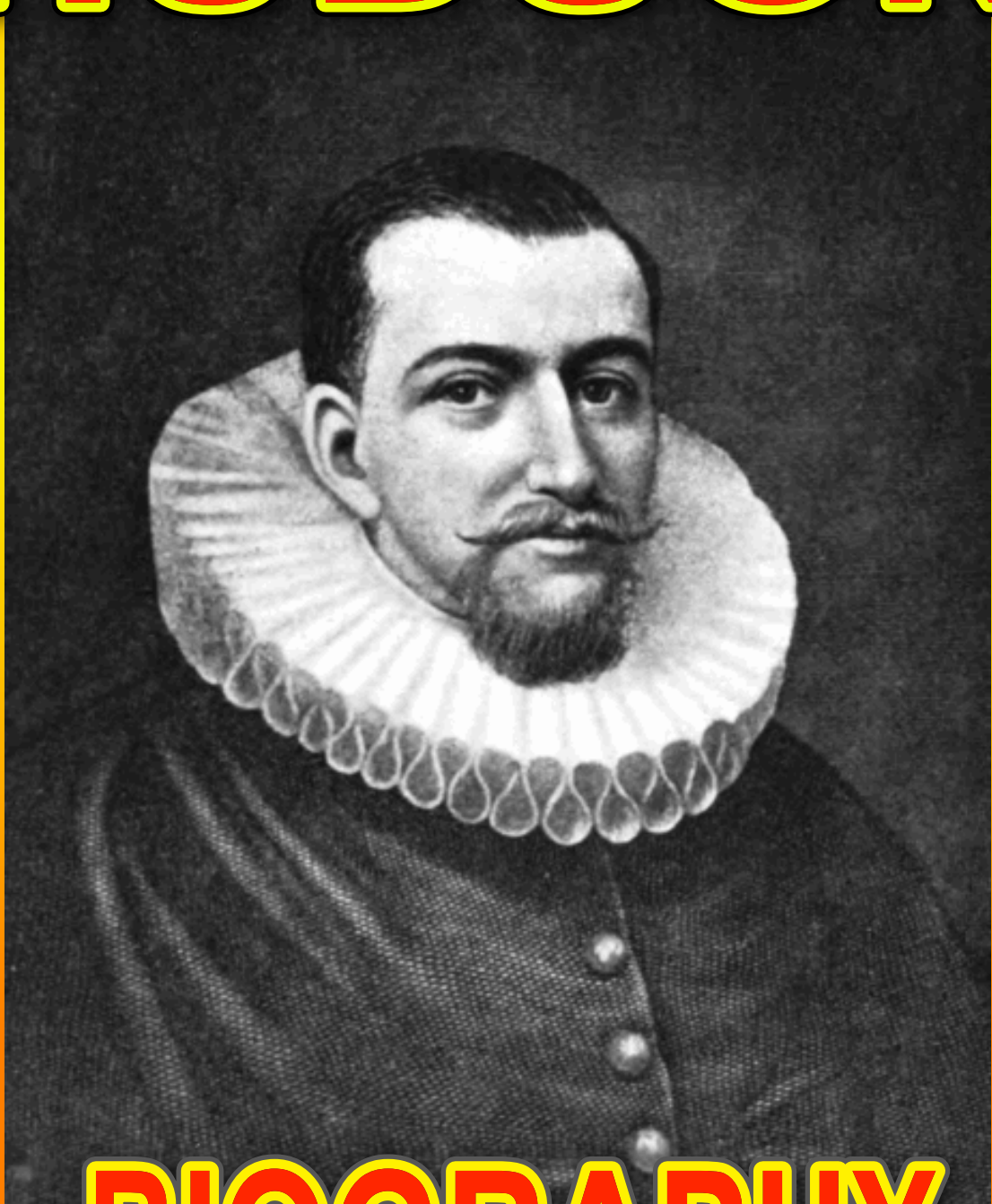


HENRY HUDSON



BIOGRAPHY

HENRY HUDSON

Henry Hudson was an English sailor and explorer born in the late sixteenth century. In 1609, two years after English settlers established the colony of Jamestown in Virginia, the Dutch East India Company hired Hudson to find a northeast passage to India. After unsuccessfully searching for a route north of Norway, Hudson turned his ship west and sailed across the Atlantic in search of a way through in that direction (a route now called the Northwest Passage).

After arriving off the coast of Cape Cod (Massachusetts), Hudson eventually sailed into the mouth of a large river, today called the Hudson River (New York). He sailed as far as present-day Albany before the river became too shallow for his ship to continue. When Hudson returned to Europe, he claimed the entire Hudson River Valley for his Dutch employers.

During his travels, Hudson encountered Native Americans. He traded with some, but relations were not always friendly, and sometimes ended in violence.

When Hudson sailed back to Europe, the English discovered that he had been working for the Dutch, and they banned him from sailing and exploring unless it was for English gain. So Hudson used English funds to go on another expedition in search of the Northwest Passage in 1610. His ship, Discovery, sailed to Greenland and then on to North America.

But the expedition soon hit problems. They got stuck in ice in Hudson Bay (Canada) and James Bay and had to spend the winter in harsh conditions, which ran down their stock of supplies. The crew turned against Hudson and started a mutiny. Hudson's enemies put him, his son, and some loyal supporters in a small boat and left them to their fate, while the main ship returned to England. Hudson was never seen again.

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 'mutiny'.

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

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

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

e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'mutiny' 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: banned	stopped

Sequencing

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

The expedition ran into problems, and Hudson was eventually cast out by his own crew, never to be seen again.

Hudson reached the east coast of North America and explored the Hudson River.

In 1609, Hudson was hired to explore for the Dutch East India Company.

When Hudson returned to Europe and claimed the Hudson River Valley for his Dutch employers.

Hudson tried to find a northeast passage to India, but was unsuccessful.

But the English wanted Hudson to work for them, so they funded an expedition back to North America.

Henry Hudson was an English sailor and explorer born in the sixteenth century.

So Hudson sailed west across the Atlantic in search of a route through.

Get to the facts

1 Who hired Henry Hudson in 1609?

2 Which river did Hudson sail into?

3 How far did Hudson get along the river?

4 What did Hudson claim for his Dutch employers?

5 What was Hudson's ship in 1610 called?

Make a story...

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

Mutiny

Imagine you are Henry Hudson in the winter of your final voyage. Your crew have turned against you and forced you into a small boat, while they sail away. Soon they are out of sight, and there is only floating ice around you... (now complete the story)

Below is a plain text version for printing:

Understanding words:

- a Write the sentence in which you found the word 'mutiny'.
- b From that sentence, suggest what 'mutiny' means.
- c Write a new sentence using the word 'mutiny'.
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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 – banned Synonym – stopped

Sequencing:

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

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