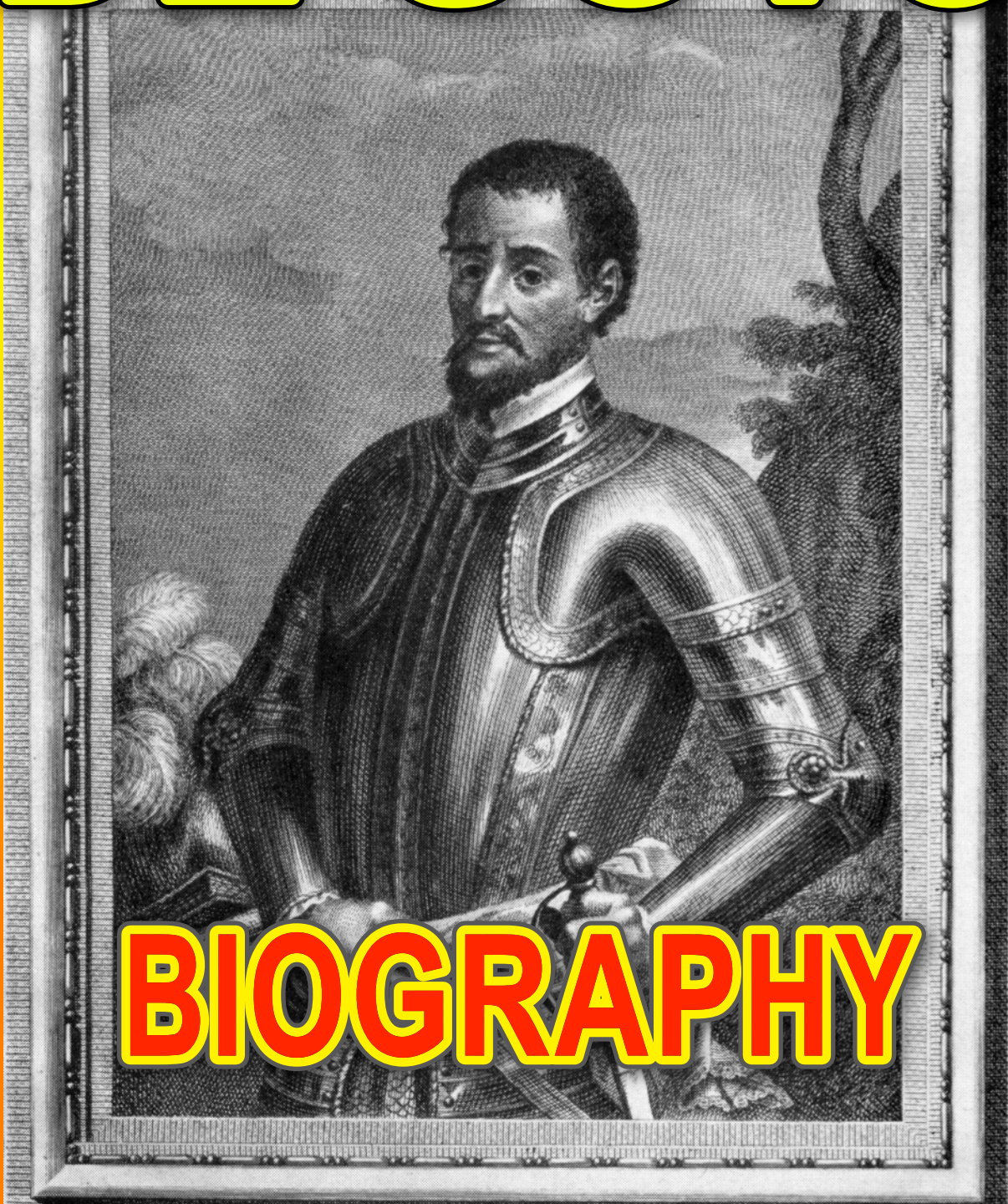


HERNANDO DE SOTO



BIOGRAPHY

HERNANDO DE SOTO

Hernando de Soto was born around 1500 to a noble Spanish family. While his father wanted him to study law, de Soto longed to explore the world. In 1514, de Soto got his wish, when he joined a Spanish expedition to the West Indies. During the trip, de Soto was promoted to captain of a group exploring central America.

While exploring central America, de Soto struck up trade deals with the native people. His ability caught the eye of other explorers, and in 1533, de Soto was second in command on an expedition to Peru. During this trip, de Soto found a major Incan city, which he successfully conquered.

The conquest in Peru made de Soto rich, and he went back to Spain. But after a while, de Soto wanted to go exploring again. He had heard the tales of other Spanish conquistadors in North America, and he did not want to feel left out. So de Soto used his wealth to fund an expedition to the southeastern part of North America.

De Soto's expedition landed at Tampa Bay on May 25, 1539, and they made their way through Florida, Georgia and Alabama. It was in Alabama that de Soto fought against and defeated the Tuscaloosa Indians.

After that, de Soto came across the Mississippi River. He is thought to be the first European explorer to have reached it. But soon after crossing the river, de Soto caught a fever and died, on May 21, 1542 in what is now Louisiana.

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 'longed'.

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

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

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

e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'longed' 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: wealth | riches |
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Sequencing

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

On a later expedition to Peru, de Soto conquered an Incan city.

Hernando de Soto was born around 1500 in Spain.

On the trip, de Soto proved his skills, and he was invited on other expeditions.

Although his father wanted him to be a lawyer, de Soto wanted to be an explorer.

De Soto explored the southeastern part of North America, and even crossed the Mississippi River before he died from a fever.

In 1514, de Soto went on an expedition to the West Indies.

The conquest made de Soto rich, and he funded a trip to explore North America.

Get to the facts

1 When did de Soto go to the West Indies?

2 What did de Soto find and conquer in Peru?

3 Where did de Soto fight against Indians?

4 Which river did de Soto cross?

5 What did de Soto die of?

Make a story...

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

Mississippi River

I was with Hernando de Soto, exploring southeastern North America. One day we came across the most amazing sight. It was a wide, mighty river... (now complete the story)

Below is a plain text version for printing:

Understanding words:

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

Sequencing:

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

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Hernando de Soto was born around 1500 in Spain.

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Get to the facts:

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Make a story...

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Hernando de Soto

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