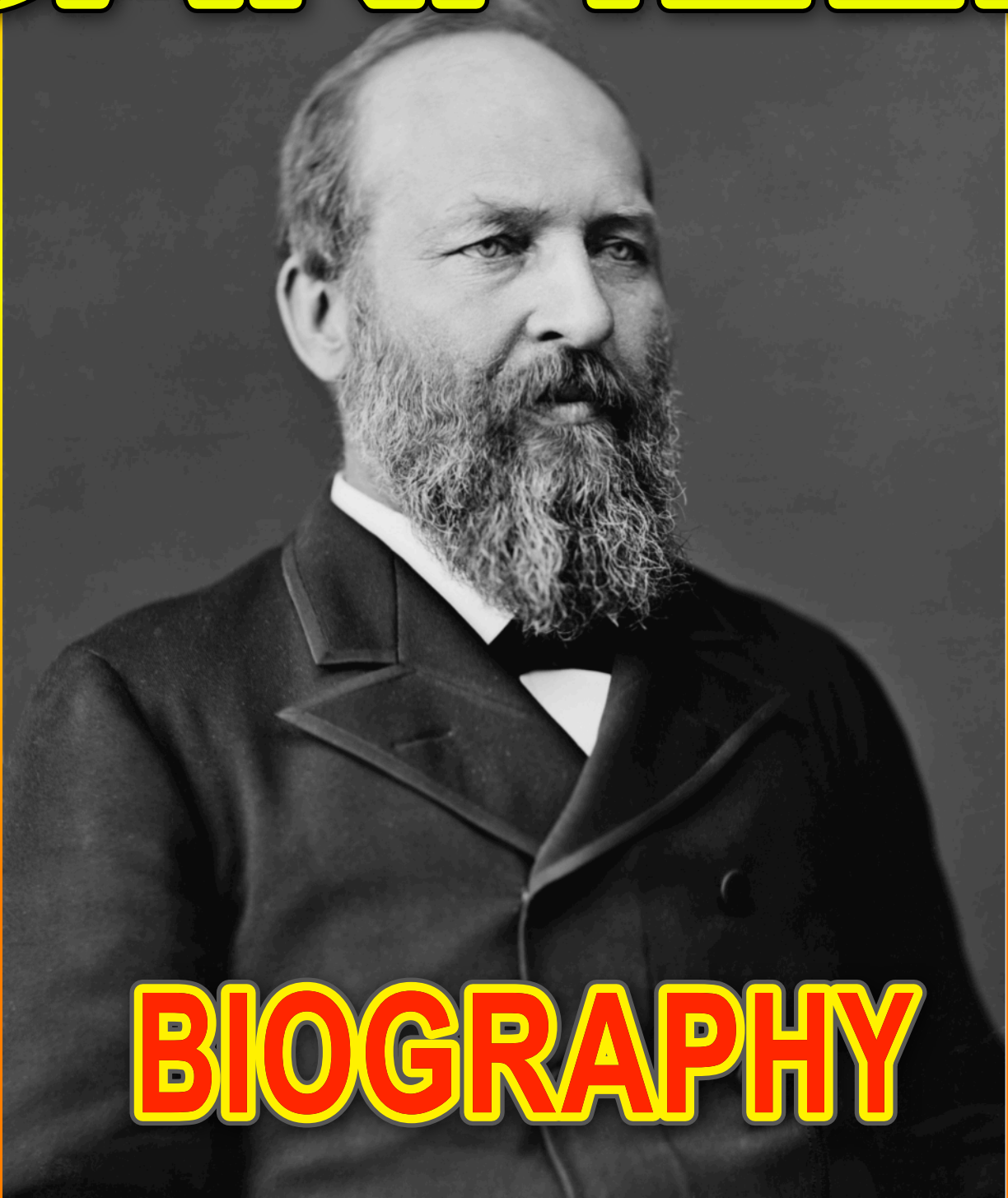


# JAMES GARFIELD



## BIOGRAPHY

# JAMES GARFIELD

James Abram Garfield (November 19, 1831 – September 19, 1881) was president for just 200 days before he was assassinated by Charles J. Guiteau on July 2, 1881, who felt he had been rejected by his party and did not get the promotion he thought should be his. Garfield was the second of four United States Presidents to be assassinated.

He grew up from a modest farming background in Ohio and became a lawyer and a career politician, campaigning against slavery in the 1850s.

Garfield also achieved military success, as he was a brigadier in 1862 at the Battle of Shiloh.

As president, he believed that government-funded education should be open to all, including African-Americans. He also supported former slaves, and gave them government jobs.

Garfield did not die immediately after his assassination, but this was the age where doctors had still not understood the need for sterile surgery, and he died of infection some time 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 'campaigning'.

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

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

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

e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'campaigning' 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: immediately	straight away

# Sequencing

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

Garfield died from infected wounds some time after the assassination.

As president, Garfield supported former slaves by giving them government jobs.

Garfield was a lawyer who then turned to politics.

In 1862, Garfield took part in the Battle of Shiloh.

James Garfield came from a farming family in Ohio.

Just 200 days into his presidency, Garfield was assassinated.

# Get to the facts

1 Who assassinated James Garfield?

2 How long was Garfield president for?

3 How many U.S. presidents have been assassinated?

4 What did Garfield campaign against in the 1850s?

5 Which battle was Garfield a brigadier at?

## Make a story...

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

### Assassination of James Garfield

Write a newspaper report about the death of James Garfield.

**Below is a plain text version for printing:**

## Understanding words:

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- b From that sentence, suggest what 'campaigning' means.
- c Write a new sentence using the word 'campaigning'.
- d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'campaigning'.
- e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'campaigning' means.

## 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 – immediately

Synonym – straight away

## Sequencing:

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

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As president, Garfield supported former slaves by giving them government jobs.

Garfield was a lawyer who then turned to politics.

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