JAMES OGLETHORPE

BIOGRAPHY

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James Oglethorpe was an aristocrat from Great Britain with grand ideas for social reform and humanitarian projects. Oglethorpe was born in 1696, and went on to become a Member of Parliament in Britain. During this time he called for better conditions for sailors in the British Royal Navy.

Oglethorpe next turned his attention to prisons in London. He set up a committee to observe and report on the poor treatment of prisoners. Oglethorpe thought that people from rural areas were being drawn into the growing city of London, and then falling on hard times.

So Oglethorpe came up with the idea of sending former prisoners who were struggling to make end's meet to North America. He decided to found a new colony, Georgia, for them to settle.

Oglethorpe negotiated land from the Yamacraw tribe, and set up the first colony near what is now Savannah, Georgia. To start with, Oglethorpe banned slavery in his new colony, but this was not a popular move at the time, and the ban was overturned when Oglethorpe later left the country.

The new colony was close to Spanish-held territory in Florida, and fighting and raids broke out. When the Spanish invaded Georgia, Oglethorpe led a force of British men to resist. The British defeated the Spanish at the Battle of Bloody Marsh.

After this, Oglethorpe returned to Britain to concentrate on wars in Europe, never to return. But the colonists he left behind managed to hold onto Georgia against the Spanish. Georgia was officially recognised as a British colony in 1748.

Understanding words

a Write the sentence in which you found the word 'settle'.

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

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

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

e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'settle' means.

Try this for other words, too.

Finding key words

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	outlawed

Sequencing

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

Georgia was invaded by the Spanish.

James Oglethorpe was born in Britain in 1696.

Then Oglethorpe called for reform of prisons in London.

Eventually Oglethorpe decided to send former prisoners to North America.

Oglethorpe became a Member of Parliament, and campaigned to improve sailors' lives.

But the British resisted them, and Georgia was formally recognised.

Oglethorpe set up the colony of Georgia for them to settle.

Get to the facts

1   When was Oglethorpe born?

2   Which colony did Oglethorpe found?

3   What did Oglethorpe ban in his colony?

4   Who invaded Georgia?

5   In which battle did the British beat the Spanish?

Make a story...

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

New colony

I had been on a ship for weeks and weeks to get to North America. I did not know what it would be like. Finally we caught sight of the land that was to be our new home... (now complete the story)

Below is a plain text version for printing:

Understanding words:

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For example:

Key word – banned   Synonym – outlawed

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