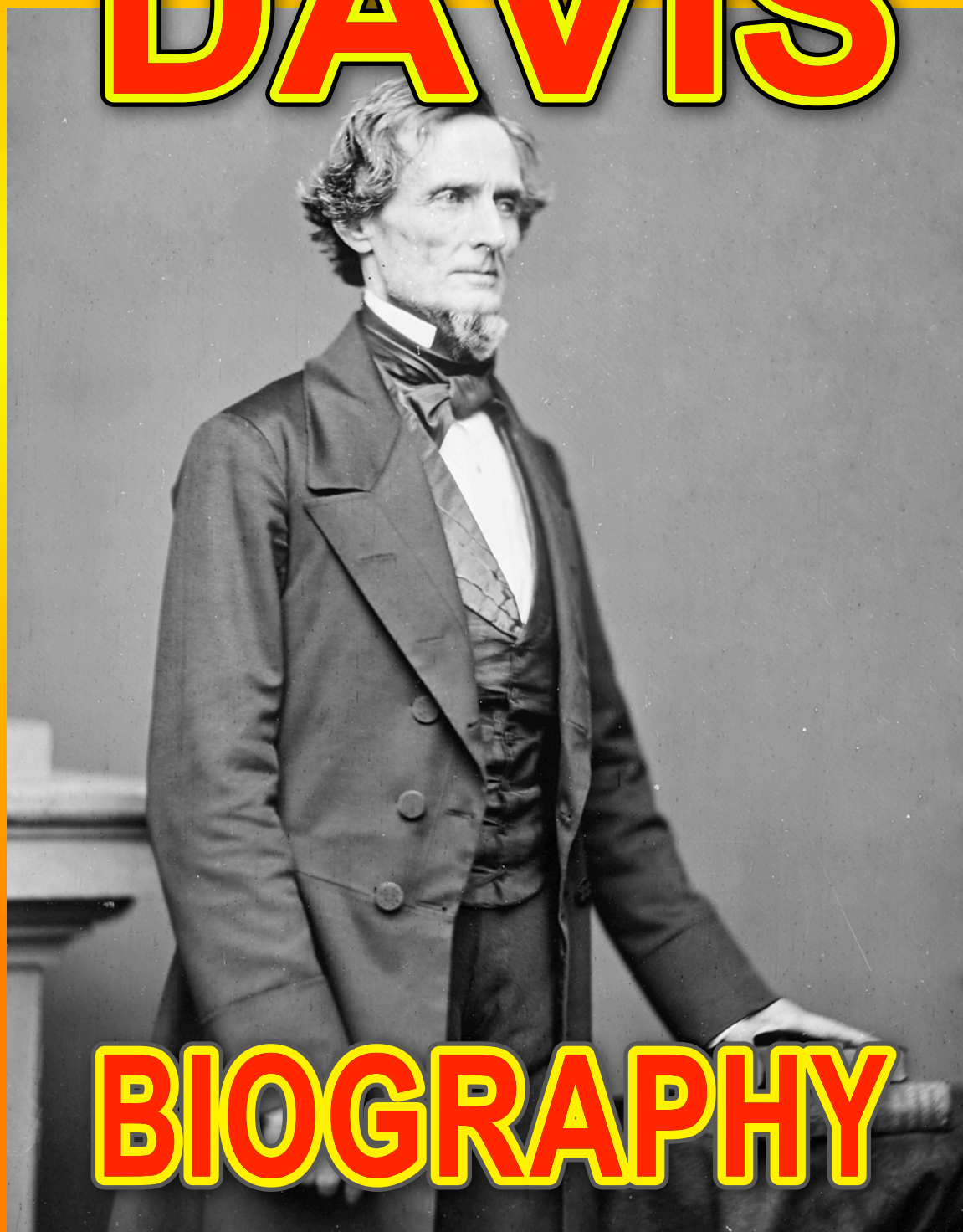


# JEFFERSON DAVIS



## BIOGRAPHY

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Jefferson Davis was born in Kentucky on June 3, 1808, into a family that was highly active in the military. Davis spent time on a Mississippi plantation in his youth, and then trained at the U.S Military Academy at West Point in New York. After graduation, Davis was involved in wars against Native Americans. He was part of the regiment who captured Chief Black Hawk in 1831.

In the 1840s, Davis moved away from active military service to politics. He was elected to the U.S House of Representatives in 1845, where he argued in favor of states having individual rights.

But before long, Davis returned to military roles. He joined the Mexican-American War, and became a hero figure after being injured at the Battle of Buena Vista in 1847. He then became a Senator for Mississippi, and used his position to argue in favor of slavery. He resigned in January 1861, when Mississippi left the Union. When other states did the same, they joined together to form the Confederate States of America.

Davis became president of the Confederate States, which soon went to war against the United States of America. During this Civil War, Davis put his effort into military tactics, but failed to make the best use of talented people around him. When the Confederate base at Richmond, Virginia, was taken over by Union forces, Davis fled south.

But Davis could not escape forever. He was captured in Georgia in May 1865, and then put in jail for two years for treason. He struggled to find an occupation after his release, and he died in Louisiana in 1889.

# 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 'trained'.

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

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

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

e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'trained' 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: injured	wounded

# Sequencing

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

Then Davis became a U.S. Representative, and he argued for states to have more individual rights.

Davis joined the army too, and became involved in wars against Native Americans.

In the end, Davis and the Confederates were defeated, and Davis was jailed for two years.

But then Davis took part in the Mexican-American War.

Davis then became president of the Confederate States of America, which fought against the United States in the Civil War.

Jefferson Davis was born in Kentucky in 1808 to a military family.

Then Davis became a Senator for Mississippi, a state that left the Union in January 1861.

# Get to the facts

1 Who did Jefferson Davis capture in 1831?

2 When was Davis elected to the House of Representatives?

3 Which state was Davis a Senator for?

4 When did Mississippi leave the Union?

5 What did Mississippi and other states form?

# Make a story...

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

## Leaving the Union

Imagine you are Jefferson Davis in 1861. Write a diary entry for the day Mississippi left the United States.

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

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For example:

Key word – injured                      Synonym – wounded

## Sequencing:

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

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### **Leaving the Union**

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