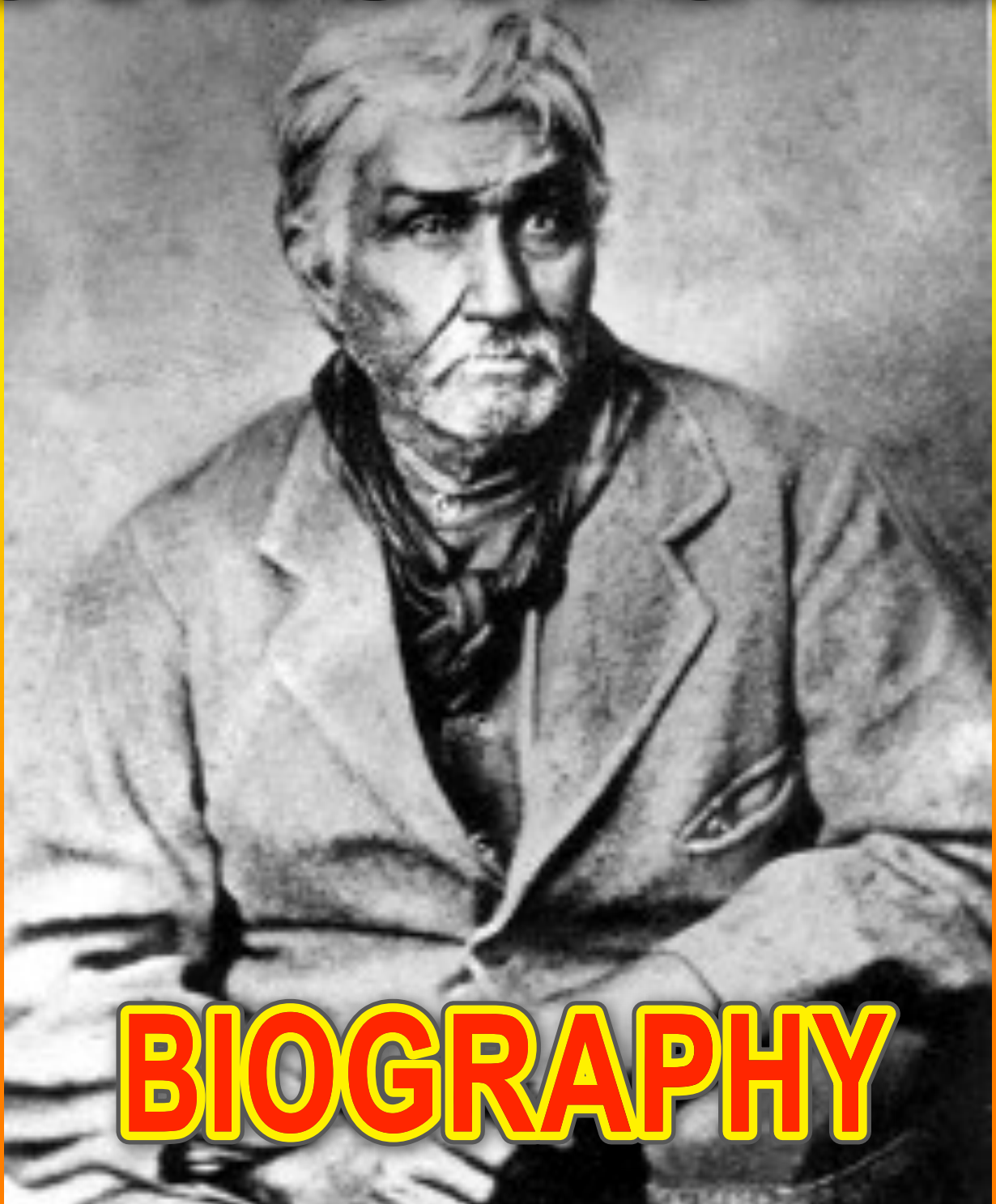


JESSE CHISHOLM



BIOGRAPHY

JESSE CHISHOLM

Jesse Chisholm was born around 1805 in Tennessee. His father was a Scottish immigrant, and his mother was a Cherokee Native American. Chisholm grew up in frontier lands and became a skilled hunter and guide.

Chisholm worked as a trader in Oklahoma. He was skilled at speaking many languages, and so he could communicate with various Native American peoples. This meant he was perfect to act as an interpreter on councils between settlers and Native Americans. He worked as an interpreter in Texas and Kansas in the 1840s and '50s. In 1844, he persuaded Native Americans to go to a meeting held by Sam Houston, who was president of the Republic of Texas at the time.

After that, Chisholm focused more on trading. He set up trading posts in Oklahoma and Kansas, where wagons carrying goods could stop on their way to Native American settlements and American army posts.

In 1865, Chisholm marked out a trail running from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, to a trading post he established at Council Grove, Oklahoma. It became a popular route with other traders in the area. Chisholm died in 1868 at a camp in Oklahoma.

Later on, the trail was used by cattle drivers in Texas. They expanded the trail so they could drive their cattle from places like Austin in Texas to the start of the railroad in Kansas. It was the cattle drivers who started calling it the Chisholm Trail.

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 'interpreter'.

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

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

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

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

Try this for other words, too. 2

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: trail	route

Sequencing

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

The trail was later used by cattle drivers, and they called it the Chisholm Trail.

Chisholm spoke many languages, so he worked as an interpreter.

After that, Chisholm focused on trading, particularly in Oklahoma and Kansas.

Chisholm died in 1868.

As an interpreter, Chisholm persuaded Native Americans to go to a meeting held by Sam Houston in Texas.

Jesse Chisholm was born in Tennessee around 1805.

In 1865, Chisholm set out a trail that became popular with traders.

Get to the facts

1 Who did Jesse Chisholm act as an interpreter between?

2 Who was president of the Republic of Texas in 1844?

3 When did Chisholm mark out his trail?

4 Who later used the trail?

5 Where did the cattle drivers travel to?

Make a story...

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

On the Chisholm Trail

Imagine you are a cattle driver on the Chisholm Trail... (now complete the story)

Below is a plain text version for printing:

Understanding words:

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

Synonym – route

Sequencing:

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

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Chisholm spoke many languages, so he worked as an interpreter.

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Get to the facts:

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Make a story...

On the Chisholm Trail

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