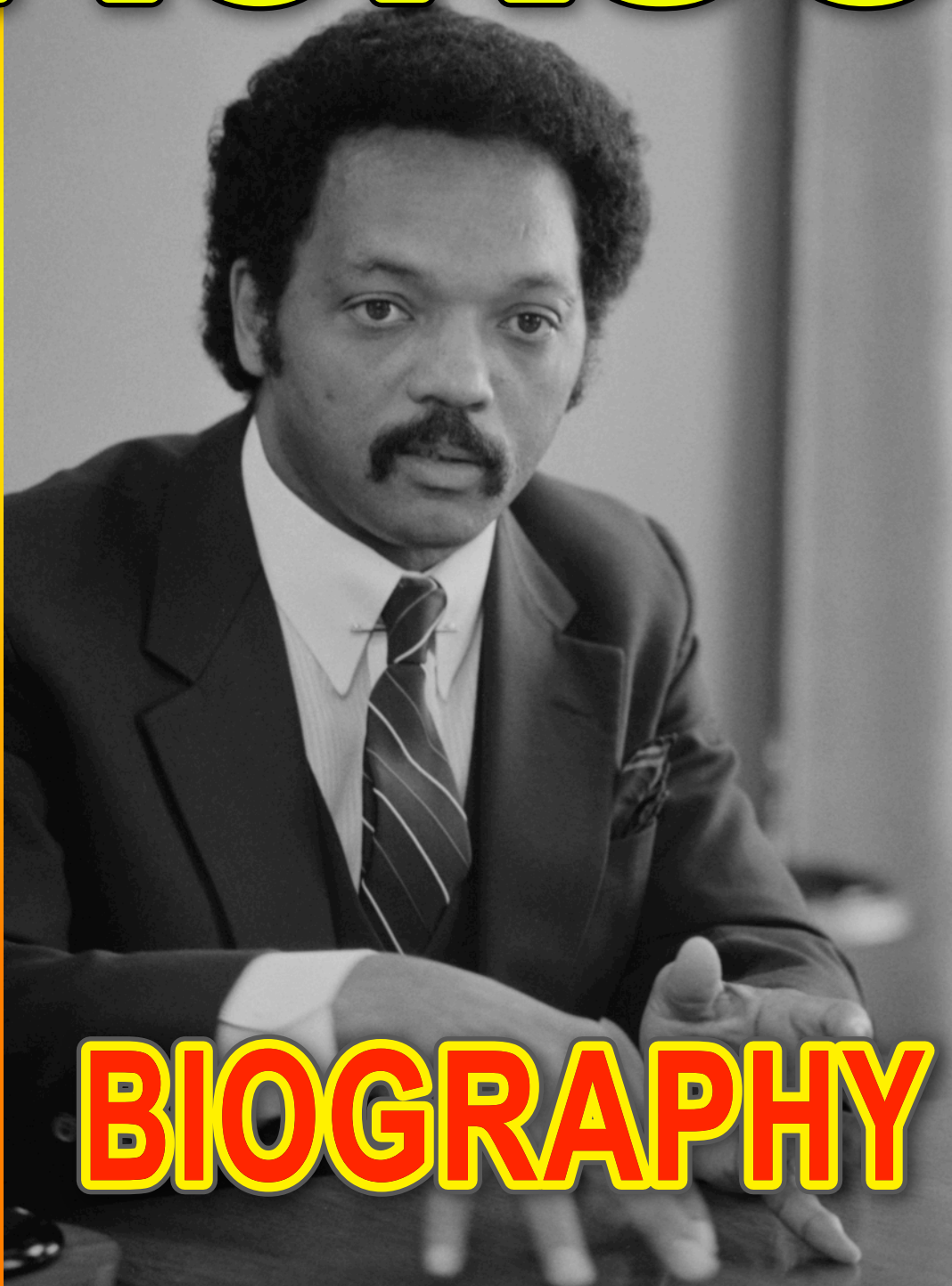


JESSE JACKSON



BIOGRAPHY

JESSE JACKSON

Reverend Jesse Jackson was born Jesse Louis Burns on October 8, 1941, in Greenville, South Carolina. From an early age he experienced racial segregation. For example, he had to sit in a different part of buses than white people, and the black school that he attended was not as well-equipped as the nearby white school.

Jackson joined the civil rights movement while at college in Greensboro, North Carolina, by taking part in demonstrations and protests. After graduation, Jackson studied Divinity in Chicago, Illinois. He was later ordained as a Baptist minister, which developed his great public-speaking skills.

In 1965, Jackson joined Martin Luther King Jr.'s march in Selma, Alabama. Then he worked for King's civil rights organization, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). On April 4, 1968, King was assassinated at a hotel in Memphis, Tennessee. Jackson was at the same hotel at the time.

After that, Jackson resigned from the SCLC, and then founded his own organizations to push for better rights for black people, women, and homosexuals. In the 1979, Jackson went to South Africa, which was under apartheid at the time. He spoke out against this regime of racial discrimination and segregation.

Over the decades, Jackson had become more and more influential and well-known. And so he ran for president as a Democrat twice, in 1984 and 1988, but he was unsuccessful both times. During the 1980s and 1990s, Jackson worked to free American hostages in the Middle East and Cuba. In 2000, Jackson was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

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 'protests'.

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

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

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

e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'protests' 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: public-speaking	oratory

Sequencing

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

While at college, Jackson joined the civil rights movement.

Then Jackson worked for King's organization.

Jesse Jackson was born in 1941 in South Carolina.

In the 1980s, Jackson twice unsuccessfully ran for president.

Later on, Jackson resigned to start his own organizations to promote the rights of minority groups.

In 1965, Jackson joined Martin Luther King Jr's march in Alabama.

From an early age, Jackson experienced racial segregation.

Get to the facts

1 What did Jesse Jackson experience from an early age?

2 Whose civil rights organization did Jackson work for?

3 Where was Martin Luther King Jr. assassinated?

4 Where did Jackson go in 1979?

5 How many times has Jackson run for president?

Make a story...

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

The assassination of Martin Luther King Jr.

Imagine you are a civil rights activist in the 1960s. You hear the news that civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. has been assassinated...(now complete the story)

Below is a plain text version for printing:

Understanding words:

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

Synonym – oratory

Sequencing:

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

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Then Jackson worked for King's organization.

Jesse Jackson was born in 1941 in South Carolina.

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Get to the facts:

- 1 What did Jesse Jackson experience from an early age?
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The assassination of Martin Luther King Jr.

Imagine you are a civil rights activist in the 1960s. You hear the news that civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. has been assassinated... (now complete the story)

Jesse Jackson

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