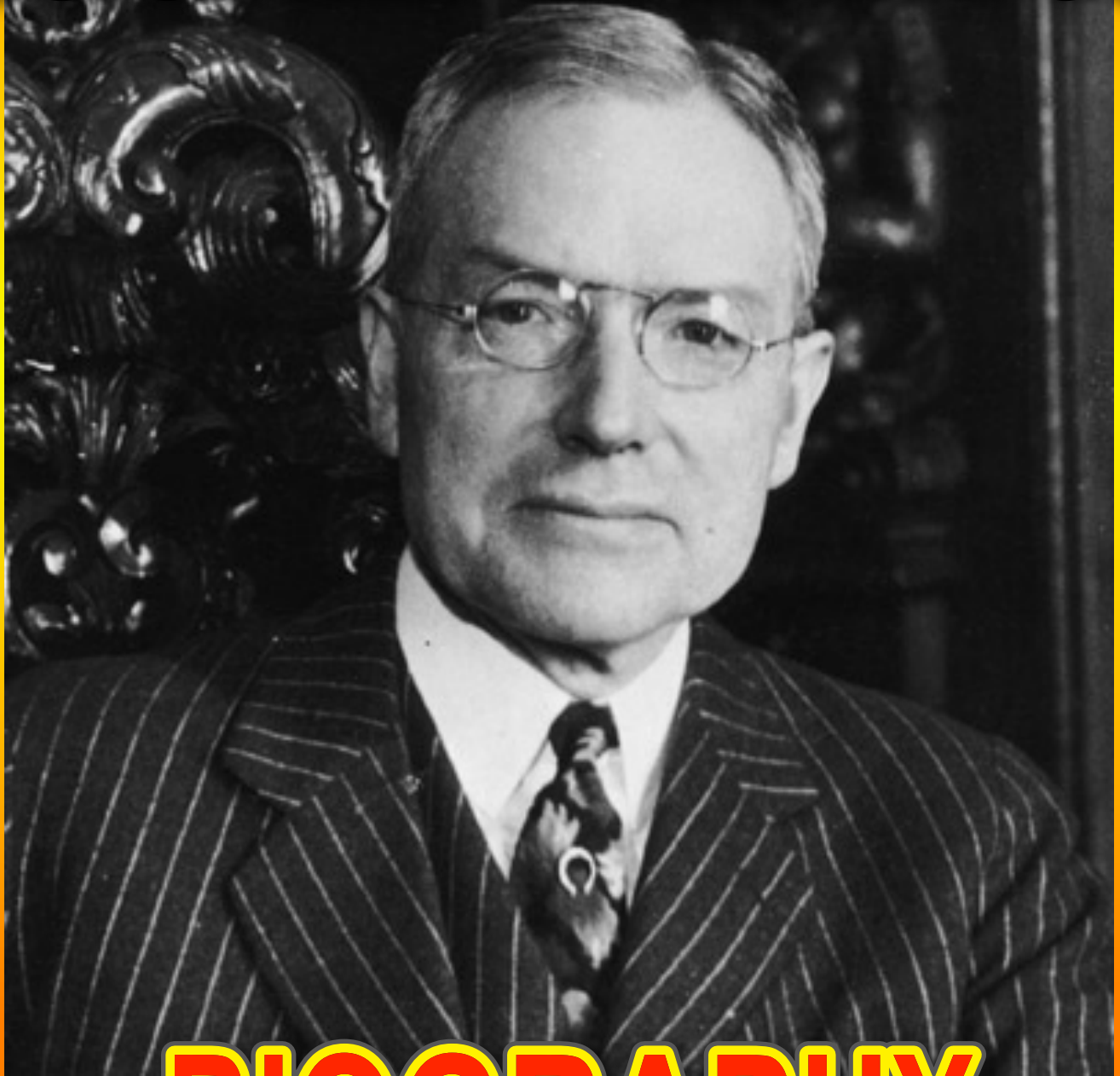


# JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER JR



## BIOGRAPHY

# JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER JR.

As the only son of billionaire John D. Rockefeller, Sr., John Rockefeller, Jr. inherited the family's vast fortune. He was born in Cleveland, Ohio, on January 29, 1874. After studying at university, he worked for his father's business, Standard Oil.

But John Rockefeller, Jr. was uneasy about the business, and did not wish to take complete control of it. His father was against strikes by his workers, which resulted in clashes. One of the worst clashes was at Rockefeller's Colorado Fuel and Iron Company in April 1914. After workers went on strike, the military was brought in, and tens of people died in the fight. It became known as the Ludlow Massacre, and it damaged the Rockefeller family's reputation.

This incident had a profound impact on John D. Rockefeller, Jr. He distanced himself from his father's business interests, so that he could focus on philanthropy instead. He spent the rest of his life donating to philanthropic causes, trying to rebuild his family's reputation. He died in 1960, in Arizona.

During his life, Rockefeller funded the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research (later called Rockefeller University) and set up the General Education Board, which aimed to improve education standards. He also helped conservation efforts by donating land to Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming, and Acadia National Park, Maine.

Rockefeller's philanthropy had a visible impact on the city of New York. In the 1930s, he funded the Rockefeller Center in Manhattan. This was during the time of the Great Depression, and Rockefeller created much-needed jobs. Later on, he donated to the city's Museum of Modern Art. He also donated land to the United Nations, so they could have their headquarters along the East River in Manhattan.

# 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 'philanthropy'.

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

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

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

e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'philanthropy' 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: impact	effect

# Sequencing

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

Rockefeller also donated land to national parks.

The Rockefellers were blamed, and their reputation was damaged.

After studying, Rockefeller worked for his father's business.

Rockefeller funded the construction of important buildings in New York.

But there were clashes between workers and management at Rockefeller's companies.

John D. Rockefeller, Jr. was born in Ohio in 1874.

So John D. Rockefeller, Jr. turned to philanthropy.

# Get to the facts

- 1 What damaged the Rockefeller family's reputation?
- 2 What was later called Rockefeller University?
- 3 What did the General Education Board aim to do?
- 4 Which national parks did Rockefeller donate to?
- 5 When was the Rockefeller Center built?

# Make a story...

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

## Donating to a good cause

If you had the money, what would you donate it to, and why? Write a letter to the president explaining what good cause you want to donate money to and why...(now complete the story)

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

## Understanding words:

- a Write the sentence in which you found the word 'philanthropy'.
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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 – impact                      Synonym – effect

## Sequencing:

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

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