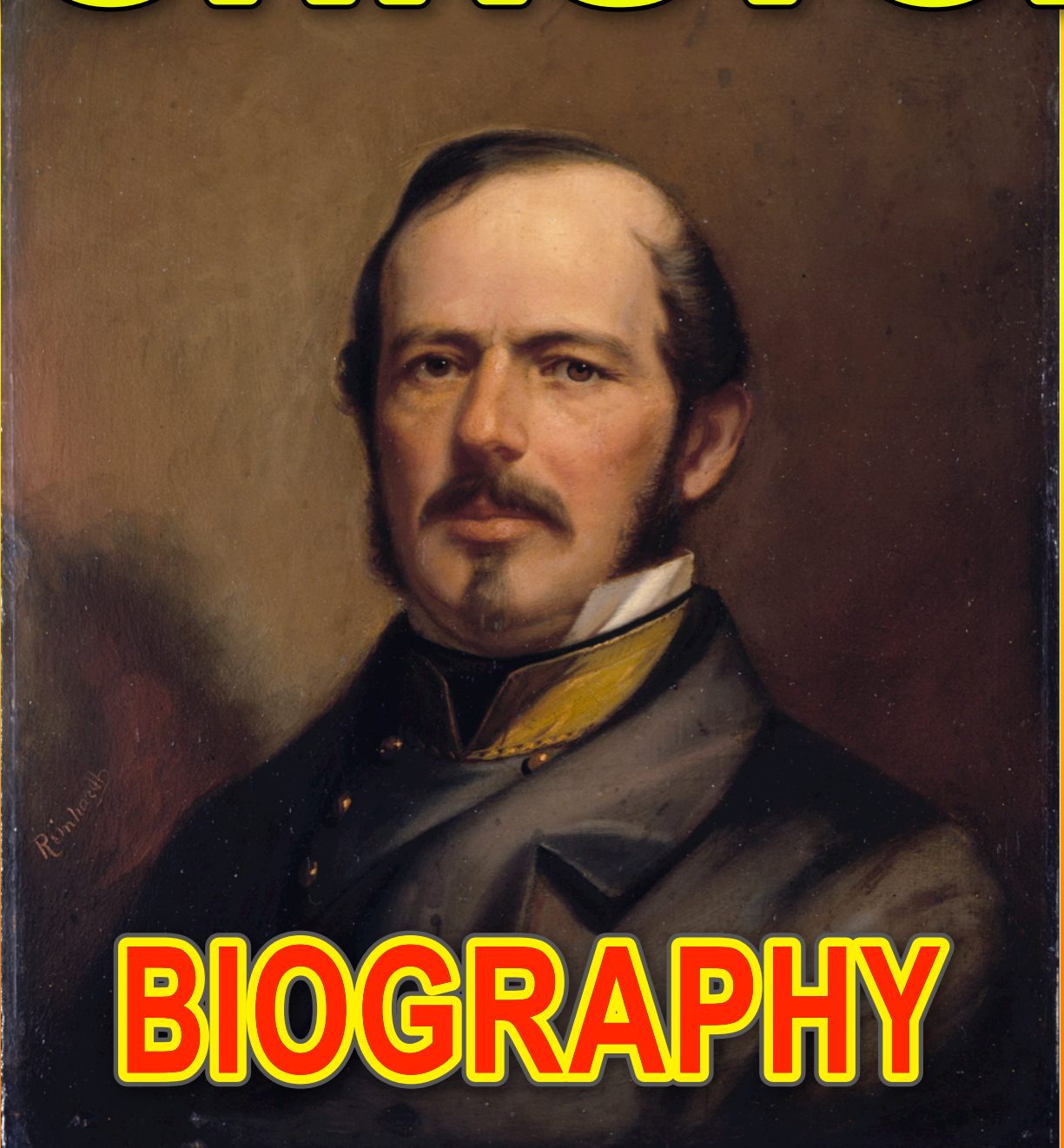


JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON



BIOGRAPHY

JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON

Joseph Eggleston Johnston was born in Virginia on February 3, 1807, and trained as a soldier. He fought, and was wounded, in the Mexican-American War in the 1840s. This brought him recognition, and he was able to work his way up the military ranks.

In 1861, Joseph E. Johnston was in a difficult position. Southern states were leaving the Union, including Virginia, his home state. Johnston stayed loyal to Virginia, and so was on the Confederate side for the Civil War that followed. He commanded troops stationed at Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, and then provided reinforcements to secure victory at the First Battle of Bull Run.

Johnston was then promoted to the rank of general. This put him in close contact with Confederate President Jefferson Davis, who criticized some of his actions. But Johnston was still given the important role of commander of the Army of Northern Virginia in 1862. He ended up ordering a retreat when pressured by Union forces, until his men had gone all the way back to the Confederate base at Richmond, Virginia. In the end, Johnston had to turn and fight. On May 31, 1862, he forced the Union troops back, but he was injured during the fighting.

When he had recovered, Johnston was posted to Mississippi, which was under threat from Ulysses S. Grant's Union forces. Forced to give up the state capital, Jackson, Johnston then headed to Vicksburg. However, he did not fight because he thought he would definitely lose, which meant the Union were able to take control of Vicksburg in 1863. He was then in command of the Army of Tennessee, but his tactics proved equally unsuccessful.

In April 1865, Johnston surrendered to the Union side in North Carolina, as the Civil War was coming to an end. Afterwards, Johnston worked in the railroad business, and was even U.S. commissioner of railroads under President Grover Cleveland. In March 1891, Johnston, aged 84, caught pneumonia and died.

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 'recognition'.

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

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

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

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

Sequencing

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

In 1862, Johnston retreated to the Confederate base, which the Union forces then captured.

The Mexican-American War brought Johnston recognition.

Johnston became a Confederate general, and he fought many battles during the Civil War.

Joseph E. Johnston was born in Virginia in 1807, and trained as a soldier.

In 1861, Johnston's home state of Virginia left the Union, so he joined the Confederates for the Civil War that followed.

In April 1865, Johnston surrendered in North Carolina.

Johnston was then posted to Mississippi, but he lost control of the state capital.

Get to the facts

- 1 Which war did Joseph E. Johnston fight in the 1840s?
- 2 Which state did Johnston stay loyal to?
- 3 Who was the Confederate President?
- 4 Where was the Confederate base?
- 5 When did Johnston surrender?

Make a story...

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

Asking for advice

Imagine you are Joseph E. Johnston in 1861. Your home state of Virginia has just left the Union. Write a letter to a friend telling them how you feel, and asking them what you should do now.

Below is a plain text version for printing:

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For example:

Key word – wounded Synonym – injured

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

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