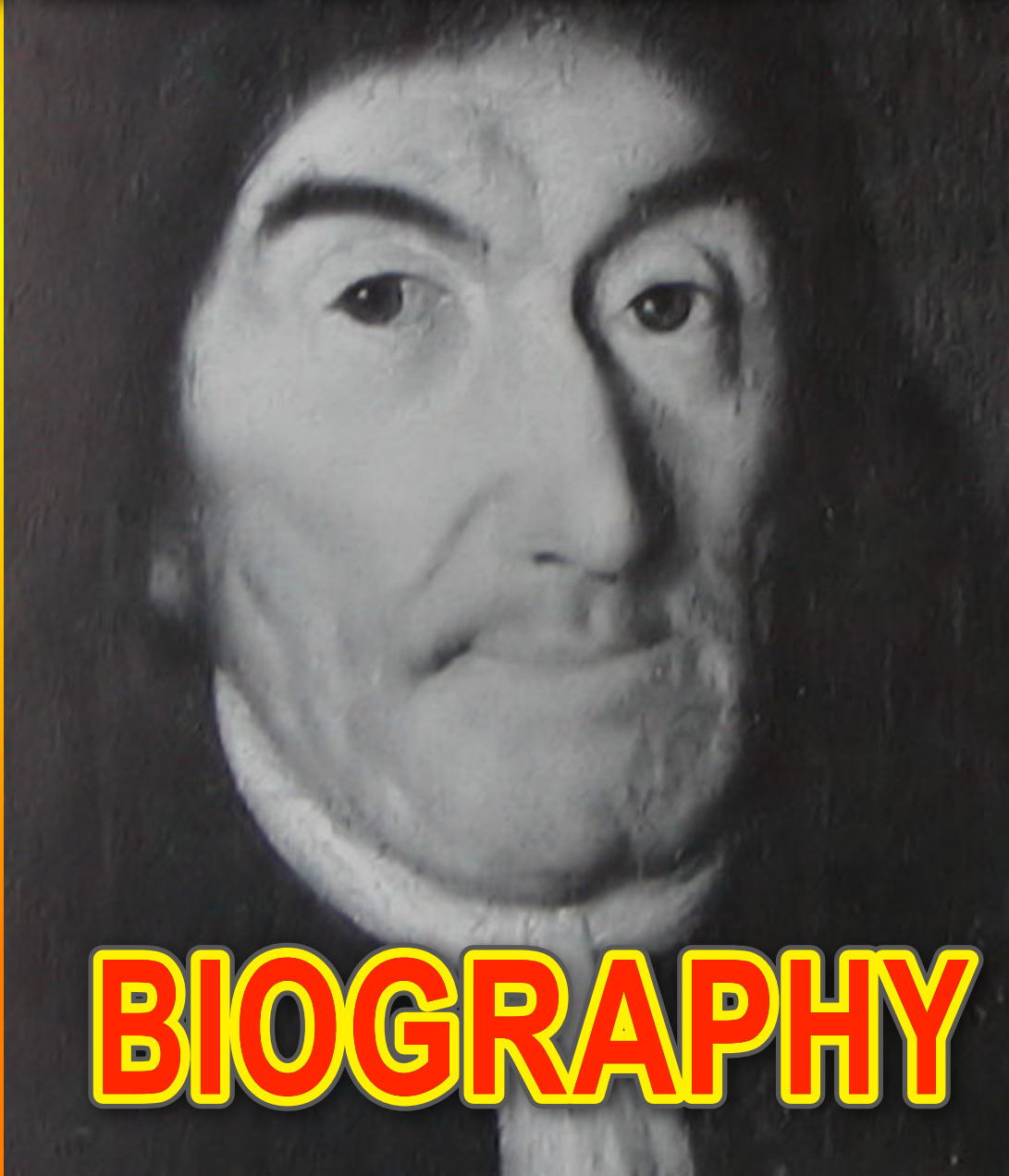


LOUIS HENNENPIN



BIOGRAPHY

LOUIS HENNEPIN

Louis Hennepin was born in what is now Belgium in 1640. He became a friar in France, and then traveled to North America as a Christian missionary. He first headed to Canada in 1675.

While in North America, Hennepin explored Niagara Falls and the Great Lakes. He also joined an expedition down the Mississippi River. During the trip, he and his men were captured by Native Americans. They forced Hennepin to paddle in canoes for miles upstream along the Mississippi to reach their villages in what is now Minnesota.

After four months as prisoners, another French colonist called Sieur Du Luth, negotiated with the Native Americans to have Hennepin and his men freed. Hennepin continued to explore the area known then as Louisiana, before returning to France in 1682.

Hennepin wrote about his experiences in a book that was widely read at the time. He wrote about the geography of the area he had explored. He made features like waterfalls and rivers seem even more spectacular than they were in real life. For example, Hennepin wrote in detail about Niagara Falls, which impressed his readers in Europe, who had not seen anything like them before. He also described the Saint Anthony Falls which are the highest waterfall on the Mississippi River. The city of Minneapolis was later built around these falls.

Hennepin also described the Native Americans and their way of life. He talked about how they hunted buffalo and used their fur to make clothes and homes. He also wrote down some of their traditional tales. But ultimately he was an explorer and missionary who wanted the Native Americans to take on Christian beliefs.

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 'missionary'.

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

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

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

e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'missionary' 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: spectacular	impressive

Sequencing

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

During the expedition, Hennepin was captured by Native Americans.

First, Hennepin explored Niagara Falls and the Great Lakes.

Louis Hennepin was born in Belgium and became a French friar.

The Native Americans kept Hennepin and his men in their village.

After Hennepin was freed, he returned to France and wrote about his experiences in a book.

Hennepin went to North America to explore.

Then Hennepin traveled down the Mississippi River.

Get to the facts

1 Where did Louis Hennepin go as a Christian missionary?

2 Which river did Hennepin explore?

3 Who captured Hennepin on the expedition?

4 Where did the Native Americans take Hennepin?

5 Which animal did the Native Americans hunt?

Make a story...

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

Great waterfall

Imagine you are an explorer on an expedition to new land. After trekking for many days, you come across a waterfall bigger than anything you have ever seen before... (now complete the story)

Below is a plain text version for printing:

Understanding words:

- a Write the sentence in which you found the word 'missionary'.
- b From that sentence, suggest what 'missionary' means.
- c Write a new sentence using the word 'missionary'.
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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 – spectacular

Synonym – impressive

Sequencing:

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

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Louis Hennepin was born in Belgium and became a French friar.

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