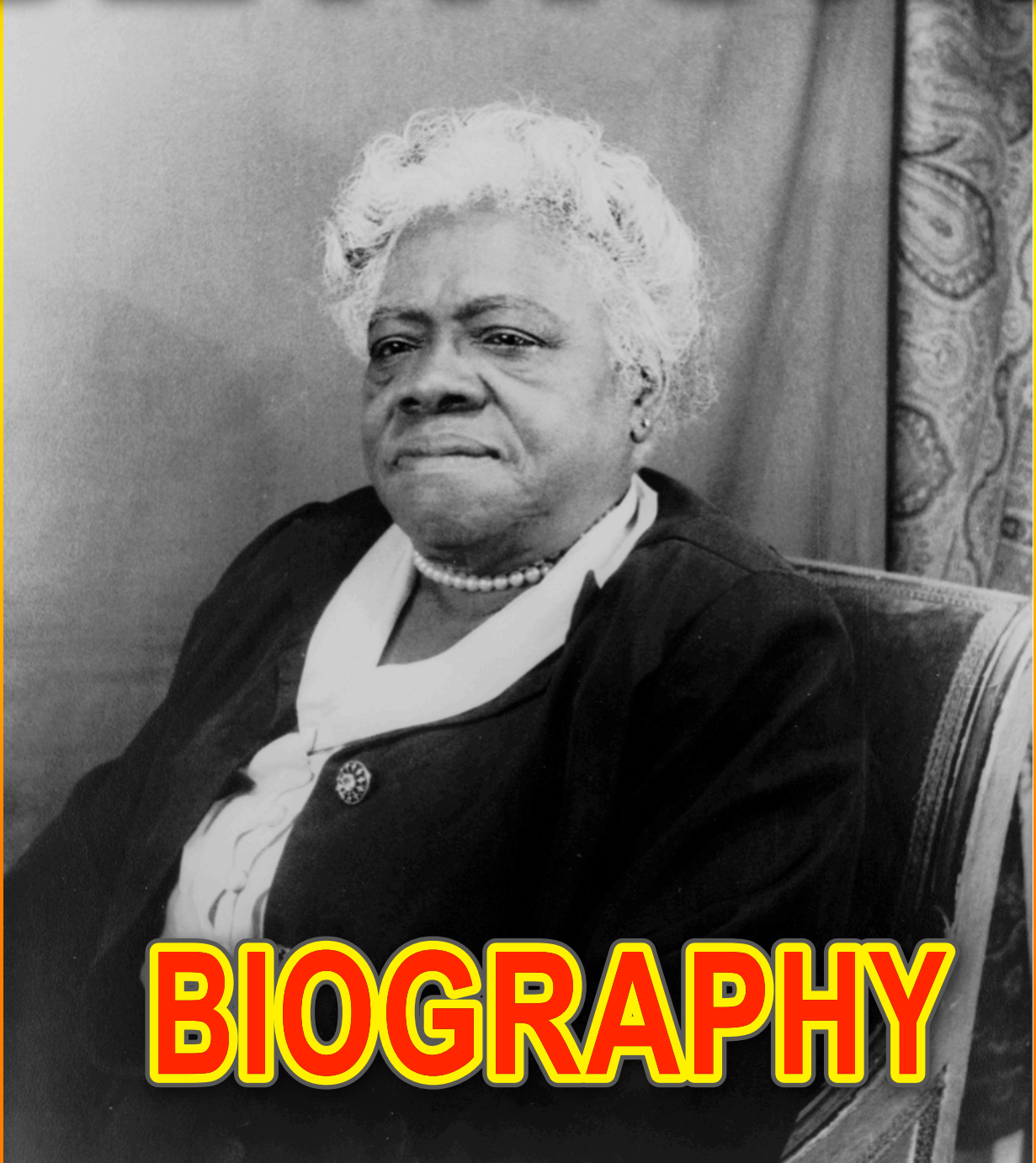


# MARY BETHUNE



## BIOGRAPHY

# MARY BETHUNE

Mary Mcleod Bethune was born in Mayesville, South Carolina on July 10, 1875 to a large family of freed slaves. Mary worked in the cotton fields of her family's farm, along with her sixteen brothers and sisters. But when a Christian missionary opened a school for African-American children in the area, Mary went there instead.

After more studies at other schools, Bethune started teaching in South Carolina. Not long after that, Bethune saw that a new railroad in Florida was bringing more African-Americans to the area in search of work. Bethune knew that education would help these people and their children. So in 1904 she set up the Daytona Normal and Industrial Institute for Negro Girls in Daytona, Florida.

At first, the school had only five students, and Bethune ran the whole school herself. She used whatever materials she could find to make desks, ink, and other equipment because she had no budget for proper supplies. But, over the years, the number of pupils increased. In the 1920s, the school merged with another school to become the Bethune-Cookman College. Bethune was its president until 1942.

Bethune became a well-known figure and important educator and leader in the African-American community. She became leader of the National Association for Colored Women in 1924. Later, she set up the National Council of Negro Women to help other, smaller groups who worked for African-American women.

Bethune was such an important leader that more than one president asked for her advice on issues of race and segregation. President Franklin D. Roosevelt put her in charge of the Division of Negro Affairs of the National Youth Administration. In this role, she worked to help young people find jobs and improve their lives. During the Second World War, Bethune was an advisor to the Secretary of War, and she was also at the conference that set up the United Nations afterwards.

In the 1950s, Bethune retired to Florida, where she wrote 'My Last Will and Testament' to secure her legacy. She died from a heart attack in 1955.

# 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 'advisor'.

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

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

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

e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'advisor' 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: merged	joined

# Sequencing

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

Bethune also became an important leader in the African-American community.

After school, Bethune taught in South Carolina.

Bethune set up a school for them in Daytona, Florida.

Mary Mcleod Bethune was born in 1875 to a family of freed slaves.

When a new railroad to Florida opened, it brought more African-Americans to the area.

Out of all her family, Mary was the one who went to school.

In the 1940s, Bethune was a presidential advisor.

# Get to the facts

1 How many brothers and sisters did Mary Mcleod Bethune have?

2 Which school did Bethune set up in Florida?

3 How many students did the school have at first?

4 What did Bethune become leader of in 1924?

5 Which president appointed Bethune to the National Youth Administration?

# Make a story...

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

## My school

Write a letter to someone who has never been to school before describing what your school is like, and what you learn there.

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



## Understanding words:

- a Write the sentence in which you found the word 'advisor'.
- b From that sentence, suggest what 'advisor' means.
- c Write a new sentence using the word 'advisor'.
- d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'advisor'.
- e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'advisor' means.

## 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 – merged                      Synonym – joined

## Sequencing:

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

Bethune also became an important leader in the African-American community.

After school, Bethune taught in South Carolina.

Bethune set up a school for them in Daytona, Florida.

Mary Mcleod Bethune was born in 1875 to a family of freed slaves.

When a new railroad to Florida opened, it brought more African-Americans to the area.

Out of all her family, Mary was the one who went to school.

In the 1940s, Bethune was a presidential advisor.

## **Get to the facts:**

- 1 How many brothers and sisters did Mary Mcleod Bethune have?
- 2 Which school did Bethune set up in Florida?
- 3 How many students did the school have at first?
- 4 What did Bethune become leader of in 1924?
- 5 Which president appointed Bethune to the National Youth Administration?

## **Make a story...**

### **My school**

Write a letter to someone who has never been to school before describing what your school is like, and what you learn there.

# Mary Bethune

Mary Mcleod Bethune was born in Mayesville, South Carolina on July 10, 1875 to a large family of freed slaves. Mary worked in the cotton fields of her family's farm, along with her sixteen brothers and sisters. But when a Christian missionary opened a school for African-American children in the area, Mary went there instead.

After more studies at other schools, Bethune started teaching in South Carolina. Not long after that, Bethune saw that a new railroad in Florida was bringing more African-Americans to the area in search of work. Bethune knew that education would help these people and their children. So in 1904 she set up the Daytona Normal and Industrial Institute for Negro Girls in Daytona, Florida.

At first, the school had only five students, and Bethune ran the whole school herself. She used whatever materials she could find to make desks, ink, and other equipment because she had no budget for proper supplies. But, over the years, the number of pupils increased. In the 1920s, the school merged with another school to become the Bethune-Cookman College. Bethune was its president until 1942.

Bethune became a well-known figure and important educator and leader in the African-American community. She became leader of the National Association for Colored Women in 1924. Later, she set up the National Council of Negro Women to help other, smaller groups who worked for African-American women.

Bethune was such an important leader that more than one president asked for her advice on issues of race and segregation. President Franklin D. Roosevelt put her in charge of the Division of Negro Affairs of the National Youth Administration. In this role, she worked to help young people find jobs and improve their lives. During the Second World War, Bethune was an advisor to the Secretary of War, and she was also at the conference that set up the United Nations afterwards.

In the 1950s, Bethune retired to Florida, where she wrote 'My Last Will and Testament' to secure her legacy. She died from a heart attack in 1955.