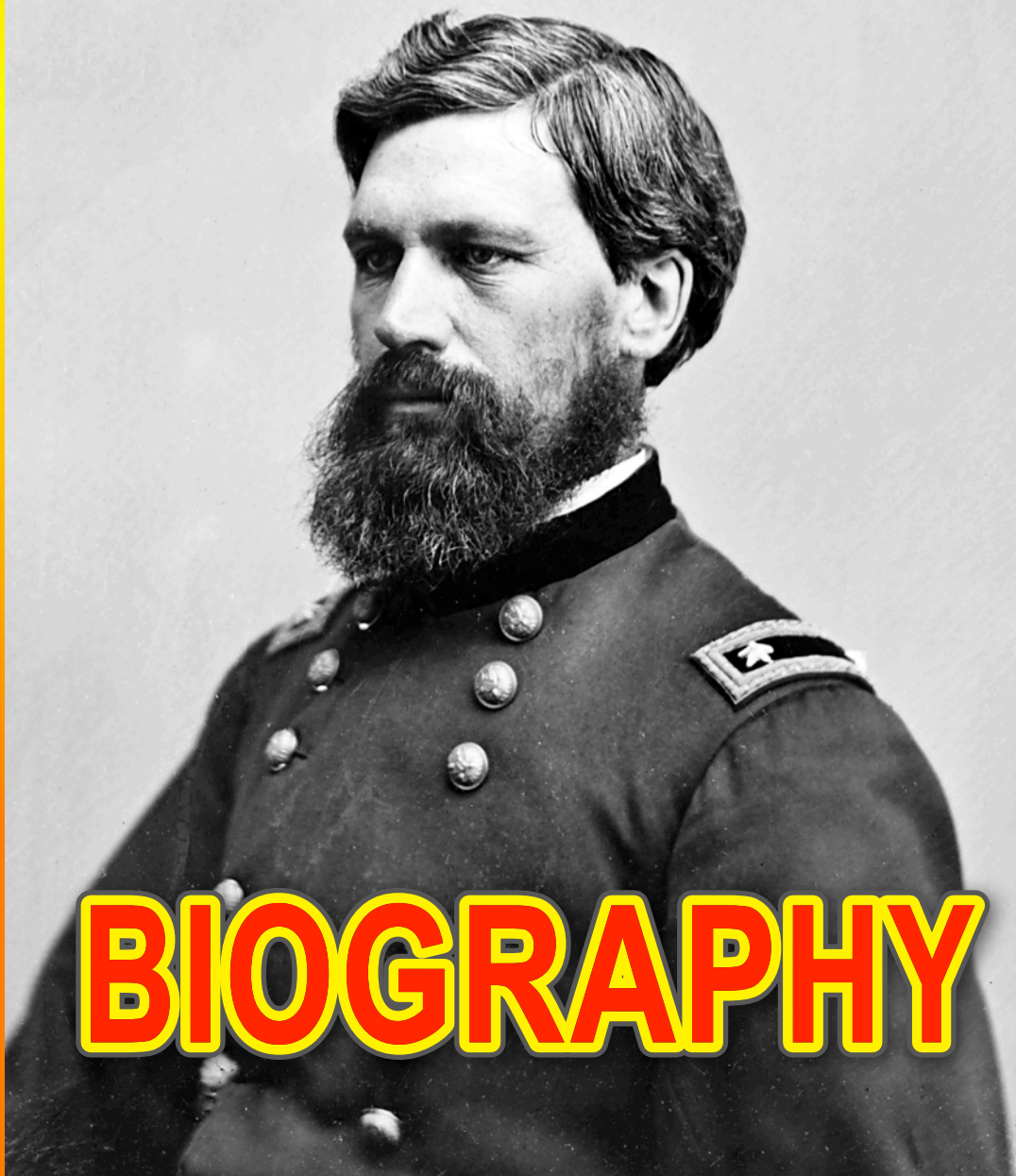


OLIVER OTIS HOWARD



BIOGRAPHY

OLIVER OTIS HOWARD

Oliver Otis Howard was born in Leeds, Maine, on November 8, 1830. He trained to be a soldier at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in New York. After that, he became colonel of a regiment of volunteer soldiers in Maine at the beginning of the Civil War.

During the Civil War, he fought for the Union Army in battles including First Bull Run, Second Bull Run, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville and Gettysburg. As a general, he was known for his Christian morality as much as his leadership skills. He was wounded in a battle at Fair Oaks in 1862, and had to have his right arm amputated.

Howard's Christian beliefs guided his work after the Civil War. President Andrew Jackson appointed him to the Freedmen's Bureau in 1865. The aim of the bureau was to help recently freed slaves get on in society, especially in the southern states. As part of this, Howard helped set up schools for freed slaves. One of these became Howard University in Washington D.C., and Howard was its president between 1869 and 1874.

Howard was also involved in wars with Native Americans in the late 1800s. In 1872, Howard met with the Apache Native American chief Cochise. He and his people had been fighting against American settlers in the southwest of the country for nearly a decade. It was Howard who negotiated a treaty with him, so that the Apaches could choose a reservation to live on if they stopped the fighting.

A few years later, Howard talked with Chief Joseph, leader of the Nez Percé Native Americans in Oregon. He aimed to bring about peace between the Native Americans and settlers in the area through negotiation. But when talks failed, Howard followed the orders he had received to attack with his troops.

After working as superintendent of West Point for a few years, Howard retired from the army in 1894. He then spent time writing books about his experiences with the Native Americans, as well as about his life in general. He died in 1909.

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 'amputated'.

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

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

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

e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'amputated' 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: freed	released

Sequencing

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

In the 1800s, Howard was involved in wars with the Native Americans.

After the war, Howard helped free slaves to get on in society.

Oliver Otis Howard was born in Maine in 1830.

Howard retired from the army in 1894, and died in 1909.

During the Civil War, Howard fought for the Union Army in many battles.

As part of that, Howard set up schools for freed slaves.

Howard trained to be a soldier at West Point.

Get to the facts

1 Where did Oliver Otis Howard train to be a soldier?

2 Which battle was Howard wounded at?

3 Who appointed Howard to the Freedmen's Bureau?

4 Which Apache Native American leader did Howard meet?

5 Which Native Americans did Chief Joseph lead?

Make a story...

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

Cochise

Oliver Otis Howard rode towards the stronghold of Cochise. He had only a handful of men behind him, and he could feel the Apache warriors watching them as they approached...(now complete the story)

Below is a plain text version for printing:

Understanding words:

- a Write the sentence in which you found the word 'amputated'.
- b From that sentence, suggest what 'amputated' means.
- c Write a new sentence using the word 'amputated'.
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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 – freed Synonym – released

Sequencing:

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

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Make a story...

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