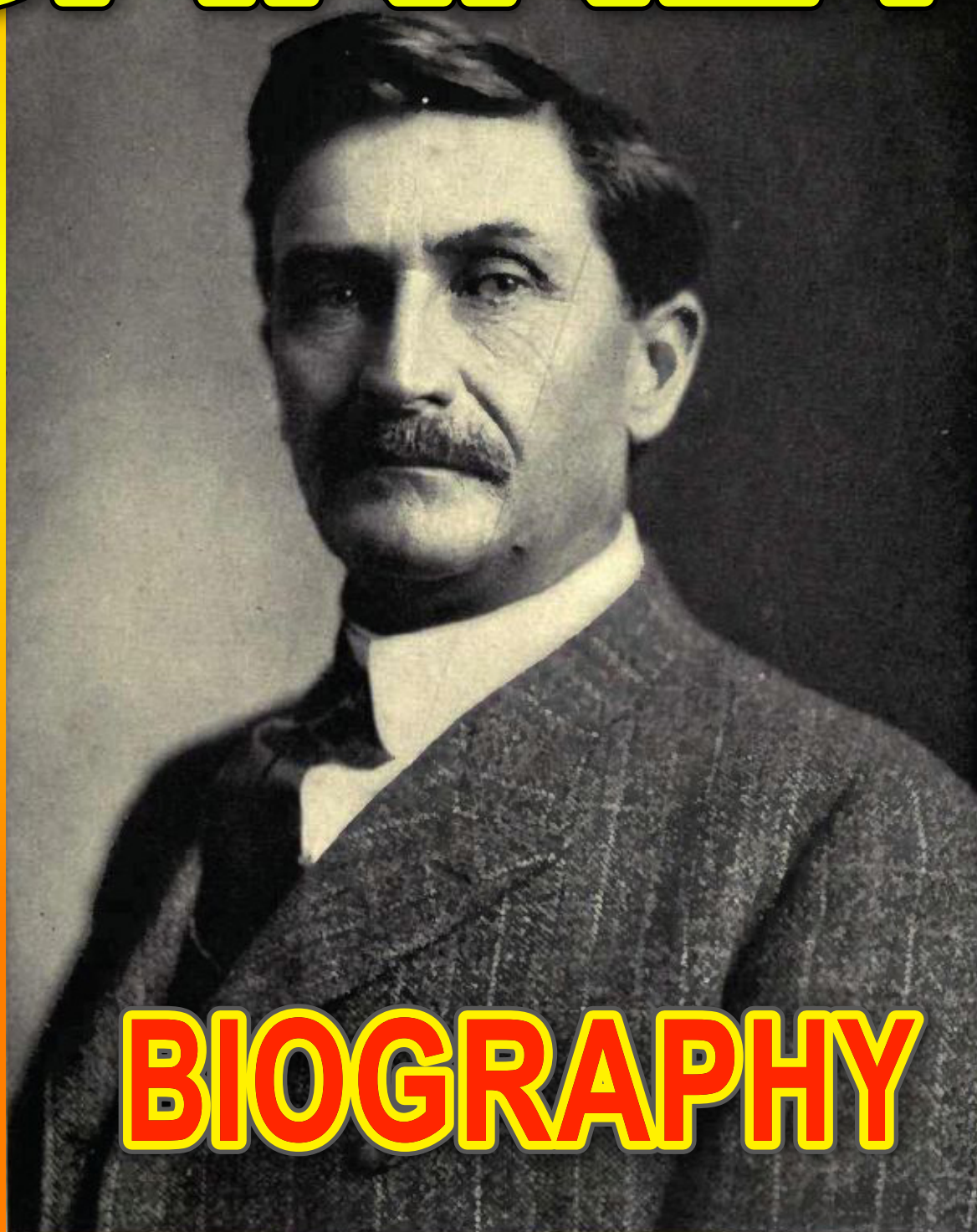


PAT GARRETT



BIOGRAPHY

PAT GARRETT

Pat Garrett was born on June 5, 1850 in Cusseta, Alabama, but he grew up on a plantation in Louisiana. He first became a cowboy in Texas. Then he spent a few years hunting buffalo, and he often got into violent fights with other hunters.

Later on, Garrett moved to New Mexico, where he opened and ran a saloon. Then, in 1880, Garrett was appointed deputy sheriff and later sheriff in Lincoln County, New Mexico. One of his jobs was to track down Billy the Kid, who was accused of murdering twenty-one men in the area. Garrett successfully captured Billy the Kid, and put him in jail. But Billy the Kid then escaped and went on the run again.

Garrett searched again for Billy the Kid. He traced him to a house in Fort Sumner. In the middle of the night in July 1881, Garrett went into the house, armed and ready. Billy the Kid met him in the darkness, and Garrett shot Billy the Kid dead.

Although it is not clear exactly what happened that night, word got around that Garrett had shot Billy the Kid without giving a warning. This gave Garrett a bad reputation as a lawman after the killing. Instead, Garrett wrote about a book about the life of Billy the Kid, and this helped make Billy the Kid into a legend.

In 1896, Garrett was called in to help find out what happened to Albert Jennings Fountain, who had disappeared. He was a lawyer who had spoken against men accused of raiding cattle in New Mexico. After the trial, he and his son started off on their journey home, but they were never seen again. Garrett accused two deputy sheriffs of being involved in the disappearance, but they were not found guilty at their trial.

For a time after this, Garrett became friends with Theodore Roosevelt, who made Garrett his customs collector in El Paso, Texas. But he later fell out of favor with Roosevelt because he had a bad temper.

Later on, Garrett was involved in disputes over animals grazing on his land. On February 29, 1908, Garrett was travelling by wagon when he met the man he had been arguing with, Jesse Wayne Brazel. A fight broke out, and Garrett was shot dead.

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 'reputation'.

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

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

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

e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'reputation' 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: disputes | arguments |
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Sequencing

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

But then Billy the Kid escaped, and Garrett had to find him again.

Garrett arrested the criminal Billy the Kid and put him in jail.

Then he became a sheriff in New Mexico.

Pat Garrett was born in Alabama and grew up in Louisiana.

Later on, Garrett was shot during a fight about animals grazing on his land.

Garrett was first a cowboy and buffalo hunter.

When Garrett found Billy the Kid, he shot him dead.

Get to the facts

1 Where was Pat Garrett born?

2 Who did Pat Garrett shoot dead in 1881?

3 Who disappeared in 1896?

4 Where was Garrett a customs collector?

5 When was Garrett killed?

Make a story...

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

Escaped from jail

Write a newspaper story about the day Billy the Kid escaped from jail.

Below is a plain text version for printing:

Understanding words:

- a Write the sentence in which you found the word 'reputation'.
- b From that sentence, suggest what 'reputation' means.
- c Write a new sentence using the word 'reputation'.
- d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'reputation'.
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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 – disputes

Synonym – arguments

Sequencing:

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

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