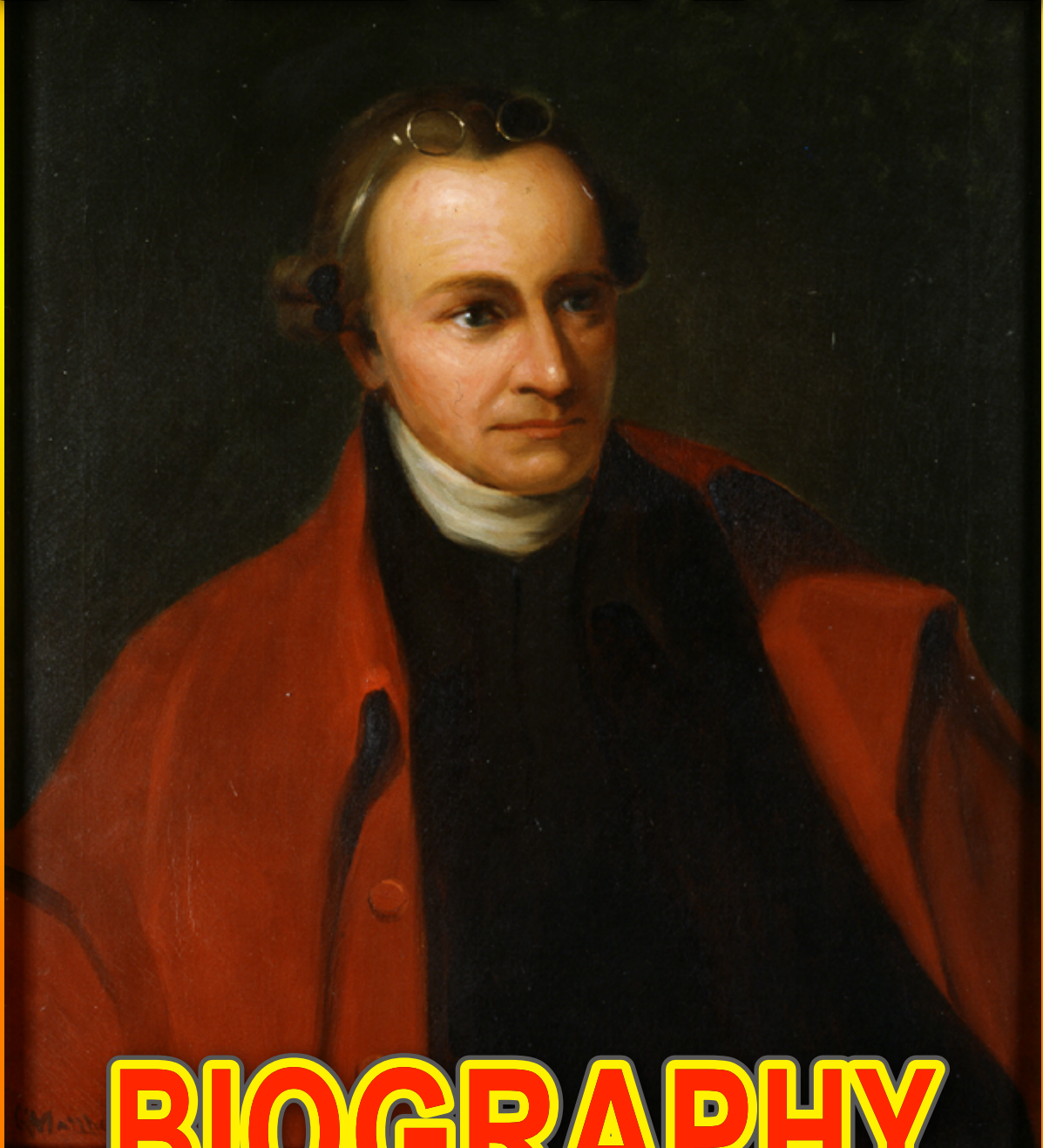


# PATRICK HENRY



## BIOGRAPHY

# PATRICK HENRY

Patrick Henry was born on May 29, 1736, in Hanover County, Virginia, where his family owned a plantation. After trying and failing at running a business and farming, Henry eventually found his calling as a lawyer.

In 1763, Henry made a name for himself in a legal case over church ministers' pay in Virginia, which was a British colony at the time. After that, Henry continued to speak out against policies imposed by Britain on the colony. In 1765, Henry opposed the Stamp Act, which was a tax on printed materials in the colonies.

Henry soon became a key figure in the revolution against British rule, arguing strongly for independence. On March 23, 1775, he made a very famous speech in which he said, in part:

"Gentlemen may cry, Peace, Peace – but there is no peace. The war is actually begun! The next gale that sweeps from the north will bring to our ears the clash of resounding arms! Our brethren are already in the field! Why stand we here idle? What is it that gentlemen wish? What would they have? Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!"

In 1776, Henry helped write Virginia's state constitution, and then became the first Governor of Virginia. But when it came to drawing up America's Constitution, Henry refused to support it. He thought it would reduce the rights of individual states. Although Henry himself was well-supported in Virginia, the state went against his arguments and ratified the Constitution.

From around 1790, Henry left his political roles and concentrated on being a lawyer. Although he was offered political and diplomatic positions, he turned them all down. Henry died on June 6, 1799.

# 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 'policies'.

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

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

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

e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'policies' 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: concentrated	focused

# Sequencing

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

But Henry did not support the first draft of the Constitution, and he left political office.

During the American Revolution, Henry fought against the British.

Patrick Henry was born in Virginia in 1736.

In the following years, Henry was outspoken against British rule in the colonies.

In 1775, Henry made a famous speech that ended with the words "give me liberty or give me death".

After the Revolution, Henry became the first Governor of Virginia.

Henry became a lawyer, and he made a name for himself in 1736.

# Get to the facts

1 When was Patrick Henry born?

2 Which Act did Henry oppose in 1765?

3 Complete the famous line: "Give me \_\_\_ or give me death!"

4 What did Henry help to write?

5 Which state was Henry governor of?

# Make a story...

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

## Patrick Henry's speech

Imagine you were there when Patrick Henry gave his famous speech in 1775... (now complete the story)

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

## Understanding words:

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

Synonym – focused

## Sequencing:

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

But Henry did not support the first draft of the Constitution, and he left political office.

During the American Revolution, Henry fought against the British.

Patrick Henry was born in Virginia in 1736.

In the following years, Henry was outspoken against British rule in the colonies.

In 1775, Henry made a famous speech that ended with the words "give me liberty or give me death".

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## **Get to the facts:**

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- 2 Which Act did Henry oppose in 1765?
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### **Patrick Henry's speech**

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(now complete the story)

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