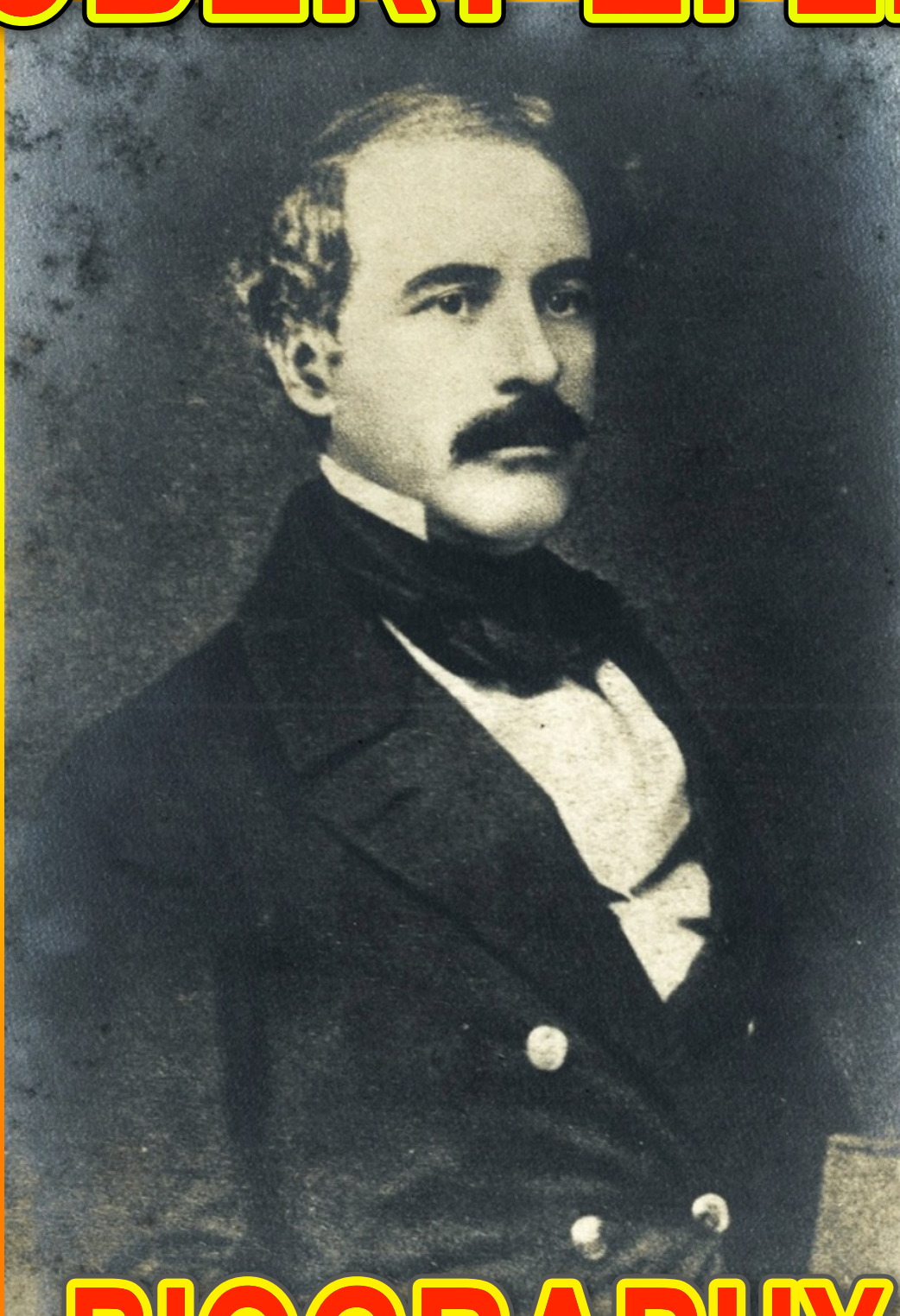


# ROBERT E. LEE



# BIOGRAPHY

# ROBERT E. LEE

Robert E. Lee was born in Virginia on January 19, 1807. His father had been a colonel during the Revolutionary War. This inspired Robert E. Lee to join West Point Military Academy, where he graduated second in his class.

Lee worked as a surveyor on the border of Michigan, and he helped set out the state border between Michigan and Ohio in 1835. He also oversaw engineering works along the Mississippi River and in Iowa.

During the United States' war with Mexico, Lee proved himself to be a good commander, and he was revered afterwards. He tried to return to family life on his home farm, but he grew restless, so he went back to the army in 1859. Lee was posted to Texas, where he proved himself again by effectively putting down a revolt. He was also crucial to defeating John Brown at Harpers Ferry in 1859.

As the Civil War was beginning, Lee faced a dilemma. President Abraham Lincoln wanted Lee to command Union troops, but Lee's home state of Virginia left the Union in 1861. Lee was loyal to Virginia, and so found himself fighting on the Confederate side. Before long he was leading the Army of Northern Virginia.

Lee wanted to gain ground farther north, and he led his men to victory in many battles, like the Battle of Chancellorsville in Virginia. But at the Battle of Gettysburg in Pennsylvania, Lee's army suffered heavy losses. This put a stop to Lee's march northwards.

In April 1865, Lee lost control of the Confederate's base at Richmond, which was the beginning of the end. Soon after, Lee surrendered to Union commander Ulysses S. Grant. He returned to Virginia, where he died in October 1870.

# 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 'inspired'.

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

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

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

e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'inspired' means.

Try this for other words, too. 2

# 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: revolt	rebellion

# Sequencing

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

But when his home state of Virginia left the Union, Lee joined the Confederate side.

Before the Civil War, Lee proved himself to be a good commander.

As a Confederate general, Lee led the Army of the Northern Virginia.

Robert E. Lee was born in Virginia in 1807.

In the end, Lee saw the Confederates would lose the war, and he surrendered to Union commander Ulysses S. Grant.

Lee trained to join the army, just like his father had done.

At the beginning of the Civil War, Lee was asked to lead Union forces.

# Get to the facts

1 Where was Robert E. Lee born?

2 Who wanted Lee to command Union troops?

3 When did Virginia leave the Union?

4 Which army did Lee lead?

5 When did Lee lose control of Richmond?

# Make a story...

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

## Surrender

Imagine you are a Confederate commander at the end of the Civil War. Write a diary entry for the day you surrender to Union forces.

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

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For example:

Key word – revolt                      Synonym – rebellion

## Sequencing:

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

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