

SAMUEL DE CHAMPLAIN



BIOGRAPHY

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Samuel de Champlain was born in France in 1574. He was interested in geography, and was therefore a useful explorer on expeditions to North America in the early 1600s. Champlain and the others explored parts of what is now Canada and New England.

It was in 1604 that Samuel de Champlain led the first colonizing mission to a region known to the French as Acadia. He settled on what is now the Maine (USA)-New Brunswick (Canada) border, but it failed. In 1608, Champlain founded a colony at Quebec City, and this time it did succeed. On July 30, 1609, Champlain claimed Vermont as part of New France.

Champlain explored the Great Lakes a few years later, and claimed much of the Ohio Valley and Great Lakes area as New France. French colonies in the Great Lakes and in Canada grew over the following decades, as settlers arrived.

In 1615, Champlain explored farther inland in Canada than before. He had Native Americans from the Huron tribe to guide him, and he wrote about their way of life in great detail. When the Hurons attacked another tribe, Champlain and his men supported them, but Champlain was wounded by an arrow during the battle.

Later on, Champlain returned to Quebec and was its governor for a time. He died there on December 25, 1635.

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 'mission'.

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

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

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

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

Try this for other words, too. 

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: region	area

Sequencing

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

In 1608, Champlain successfully founded a colony at Quebec City.

Champlain was governor of Quebec for a time before he died in 1635.

Using Native Americans as guides, Champlain later explored more of Canada.

Samuel de Champlain was a French explorer born in 1574.

Champlain tried to settle on what is now the Maine-New Brunswick border, but the settlement failed.

A year later, Champlain claimed Vermont as part of New France.

In 1604, Champlain led a colonizing mission to North America.

Get to the facts

1 Where was Samuel de Champlain born?

2 Where did Champlain try to settle in 1604?

3 Where did Champlain found a colony in 1608?

4 When did Champlain claim Vermont as part of New France?

5 Where was Champlain governor of?

Make a story...

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

Setting sail

I was on board a ship bound for New France. This was my first voyage across the vast ocean. As the ship sailed away, my homeland faded from view... (now complete the story)

Below is a plain text version for printing:

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For example:

Key word – region Synonym – area

Sequencing:

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