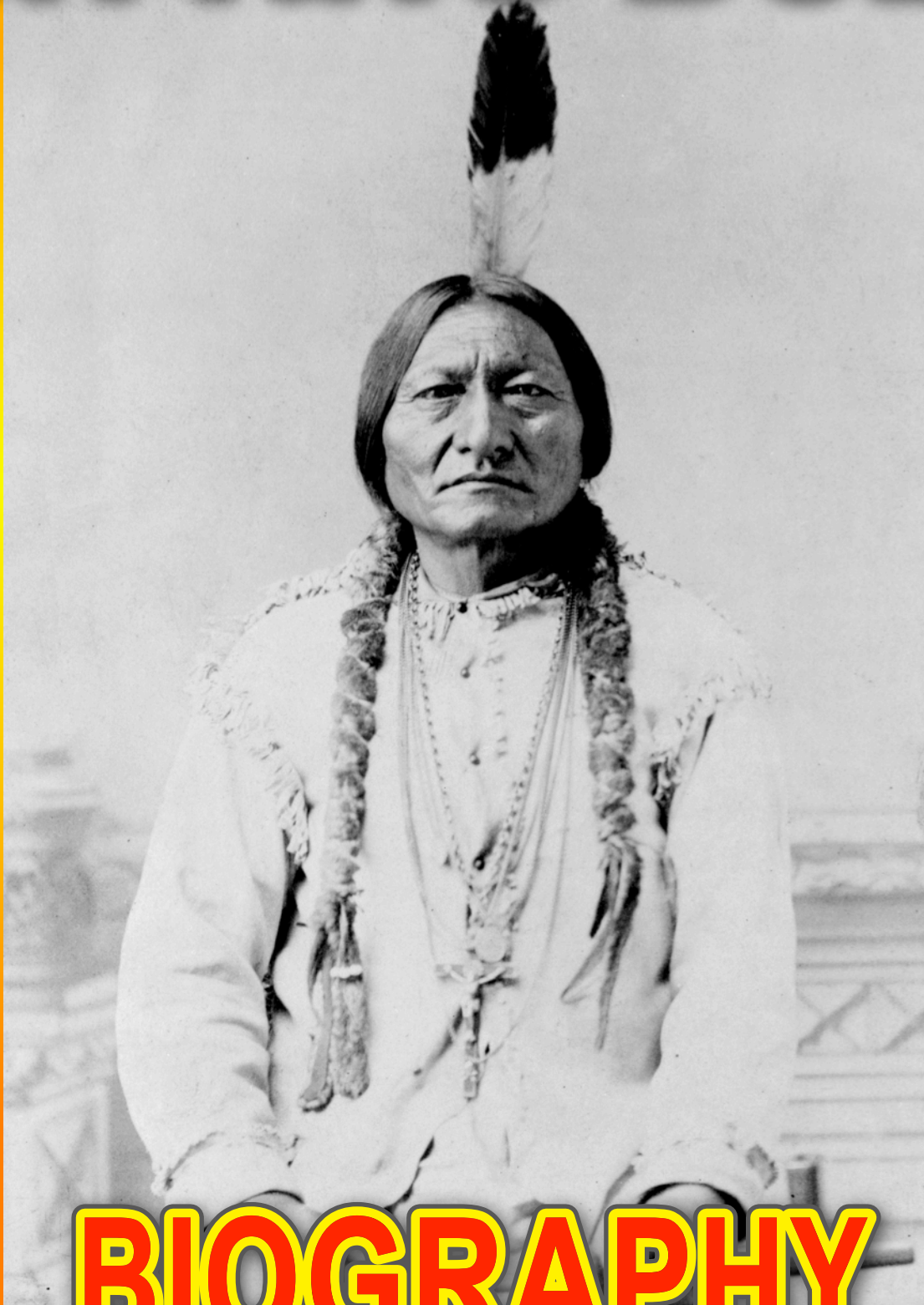


SITTING BULL



BIOGRAPHY

SITTING BULL

Sitting Bull was born around 1831 in the Grand River Valley in what is now South Dakota. He belonged to the Tetons, a branch of the Sioux Native American peoples, and was involved in warrior society from a young age.

Sitting Bull was leader of the Tetons in 1863, when U.S soldiers attacked them in revenge for something a different branch of Sioux Native Americans had done. This increased hostile relations between the Native Americans and settlers.

In 1867, Sitting Bull became chief of all Sioux Native Americans. He then tried to make peace with the U.S government through a treaty that guaranteed land in what is now South Dakota for the Sioux to use.

But before long, the agreement broke down. This was because the discovery of gold in the Black Hills brought waves of prospectors and settlers to their land. The Sioux were told to move elsewhere, but they did not. U.S soldiers and Sioux warriors clashed in Montana, forcing U.S retreat.

Sitting Bull then moved his men to the Little Bighorn River valley. Here Sitting Bull had a vision of soldiers swarming into his camp. On June 25, 1876, his vision came true when U.S soldiers, led by Colonel Custer, rode against the Sioux. What followed was the Battle of the Little Bighorn, in which Custer made his famous Last Stand. It was in vain, however, as he and his men lost their lives at the hands of Sitting Bull's warriors.

This only made the U.S army step up its attacks on the Sioux peoples. The Sioux were already struggling to survive because many of the buffalo they lived on had been hunted by incomers. Many starving Sioux surrendered out of desperation. Sitting Bull went to Canada, hoping for protection, but the Canadians could not feed all his people. So in the end, Sitting Bull surrendered too.

Sitting Bull then moved to Standing Rock, North Dakota. He also appeared in Buffalo Bill's Wild West show, which made him famous to a wide audience. In 1889, Sitting Bull was associated with a religious movement that was stirring hatred against settlers. Sitting Bull was arrested in 1890 because he was seen as a threat. He tried to resist, and was killed in the fight that followed.

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 'warrior'.

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

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

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

e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'warrior' 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: clashed	fought

Sequencing

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

In 1867, Sitting Bull became leader of all the Sioux people.

Sitting Bull became leader of his people, the Teton Sioux Native Americans.

U.S soldiers and Sioux warriors fought each other.

Sitting Bull finally surrendered, and was later killed while being arrested.

The Sioux people were given land by the government, but it was soon being taken over by settlers.

Sitting Bull was born around 1831 in what is now South Dakota.

The most famous battle was the Battle of the Bighorn.

Get to the facts

1 When did Sitting Bull become Sioux chief?

2 Where was gold discovered?

3 When was the Battle of the Little Bighorn?

4 Who made his last stand in the battle?

5 Whose Wild West show did Sitting Bull appear in?

Make a story...

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

Battle of the Little Bighorn

Write a newspaper story about the Battle of the Little Bighorn.

Below is a plain text version for printing:

Understanding words:

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

Sequencing:

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

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Make a story...

Battle of the Little Bighorn

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