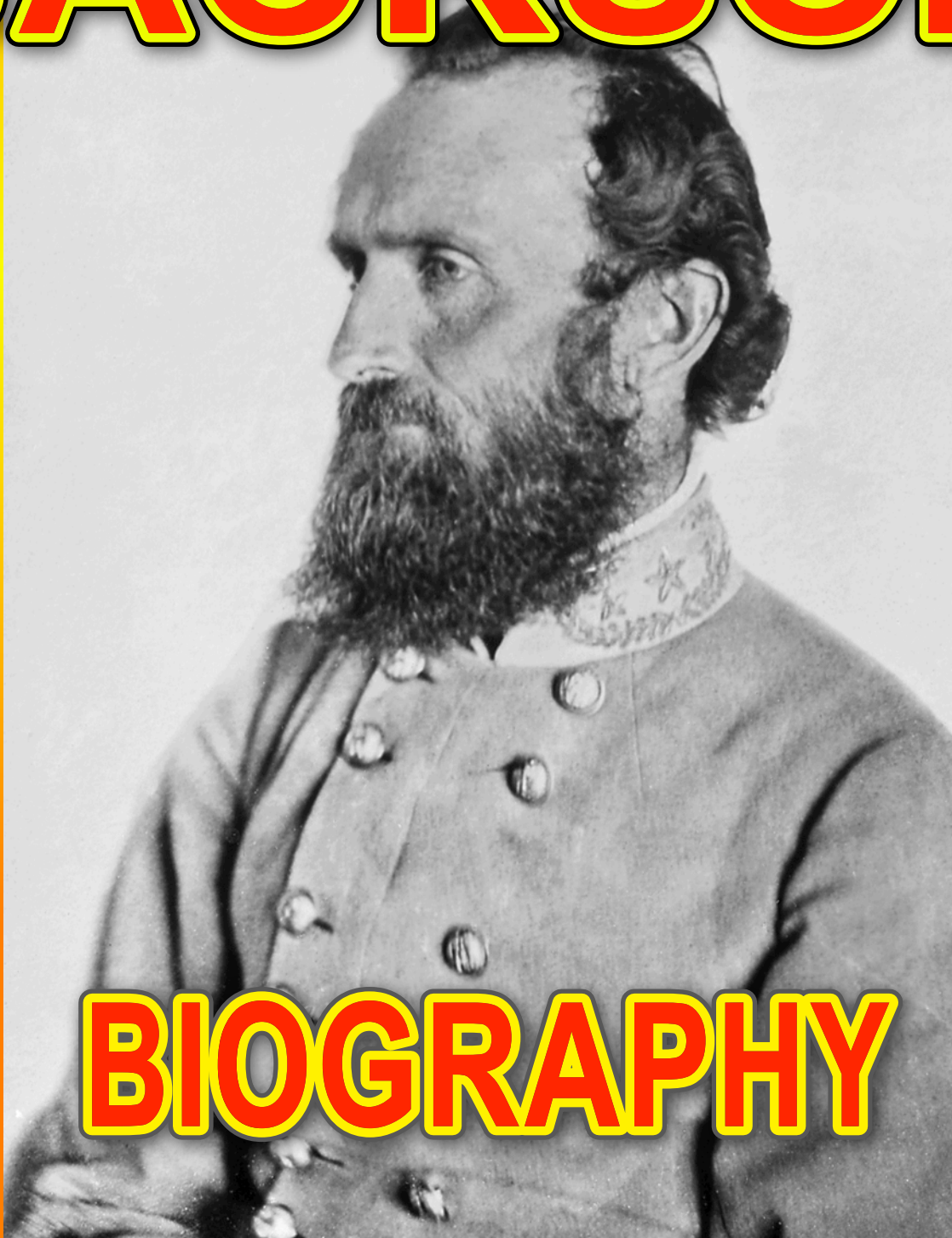


# STONEWALL JACKSON



## BIOGRAPHY

# STONEWALL JACKSON

Stonewall Jackson's real name was Thomas Jonathan Jackson, and he was born in what is now West Virginia on January 21, 1824. Jackson was first a soldier in the Mexican-American War, where he gained a reputation for discipline and bravery. After that war, he taught military tactics at the Virginia Military Institute.

But all that changed with the coming of the Civil War. In 1861, Virginia left the United States, and Jackson returned to military life. He joined the Confederate army, and was promoted to brigadier general under Joseph E. Johnston. He soon found himself in the thick of the action.

At the First Battle of Bull Run (Manassas), Jackson led his troops to close a gap in the battle line so that Union forces could not easily break through and gain the upper hand. As he did so, one of Jackson's generals likened him to a defensive stone wall, and so the nickname Stonewall Jackson was born.

Jackson was soon a major general, and he was crucial to defending the Confederate capital at Richmond, Virginia, during the early part of the Civil War. Together with General Robert E. Lee, Jackson faced a challenge at Chancellorsville in Virginia in May 1863. They had 60,000 Confederate troops against 130,000 Union soldiers. The plan was for Lee to attack from the front, while Jackson targeted the side of the Union ranks. Jackson led his men to their positions as discreetly as possible, and then launched their attack.

Jackson and his men caused a huge number of casualties, as they had planned. But Jackson did not taste victory for long. For, after the fighting had died down that day, Jackson and his men were hit by friendly fire. Jackson was shot in the shoulder, and his arm had to be amputated. He became ill after the operation, and he died on May 10, 1863.

# 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: discreetly	stealthily

# Sequencing

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

Jackson joined forces with Robert E. Lee to fight at Chancellorsville in 1863.

When the Civil War broke out, Jackson joined the Confederate Army.

Jackson trained to be a soldier, and was active during the Mexican-American War.

Although Jackson secured a victory, he was later wounded by friendly fire.

During the battle at Manassas, Jackson acted like a defensive wall, which earned him his nickname.

Then Jackson taught at a military institute in Virginia.

Stonewall Jackson was born in present-day West Virginia in 1824.

# Get to the facts

1 What was Stonewall Jackson's real name?

2 At which battle did Jackson gain his nickname?

3 Where was the Confederate capital?

4 How many Union soldiers did Jackson face at Chancellorsville?

5 When did Jackson die?

# Make a story...

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

## Chancellorsville

I lined up, ready to charge at the Union soldiers at Chancellorsville. My general had a plan, and he was sure we would win. But there were so many enemy soldiers in front of us... (now complete the story)

**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 – discreetly                      Synonym – stealthily

## Sequencing:

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

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