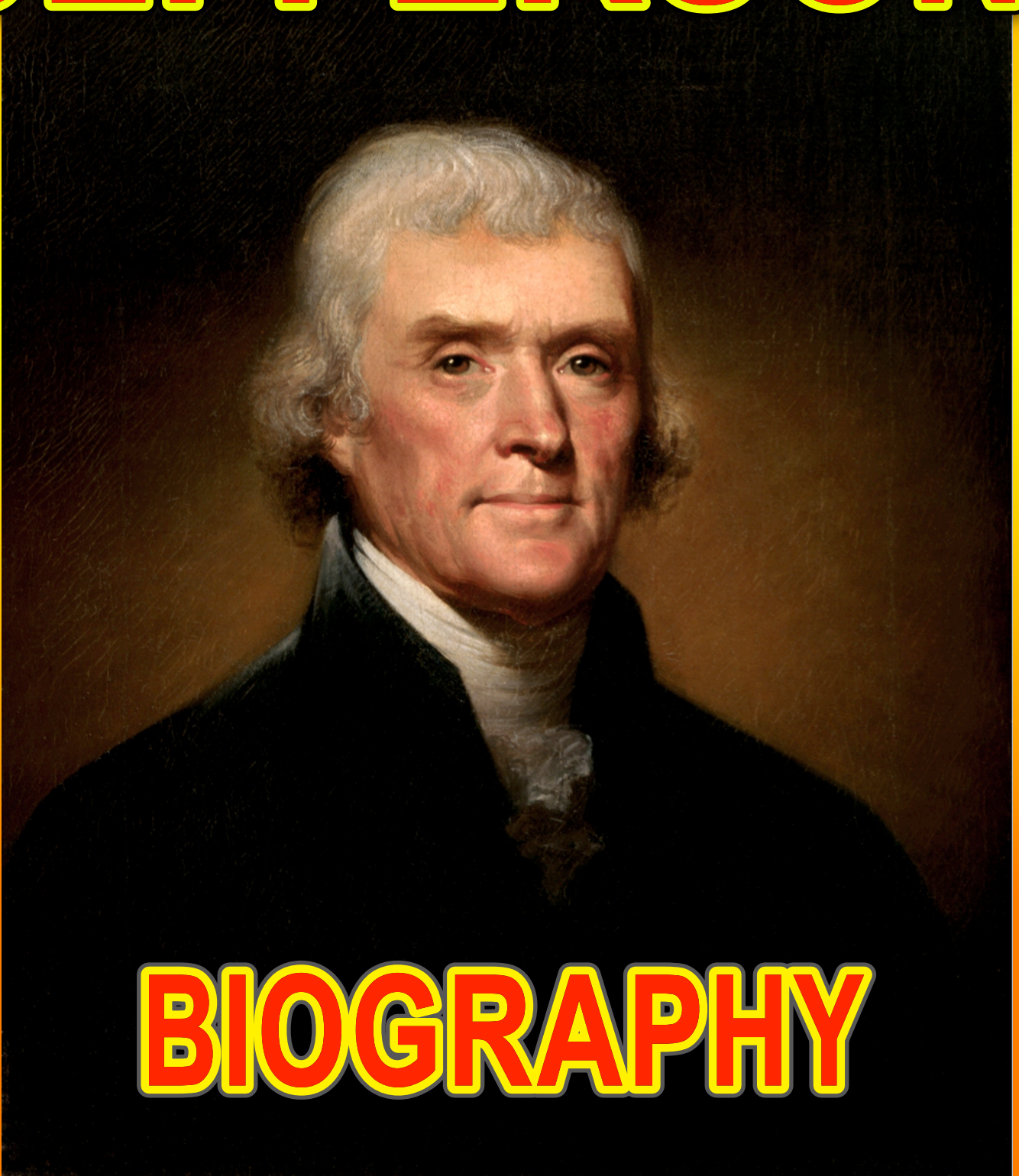


# THOMAS JEFFERSON



## BIOGRAPHY

# THOMAS JEFFERSON

Thomas Jefferson (born April 13, 1743 in Virginia) was an American Founding Father, the man who wrote much of the Declaration of Independence (1776), and the third President of the United States (1801–1809).

He was a fierce republican, along with his friend, John Adams. He represented Virginia in the Continental Congress at the start of the Revolutionary War, and in 1785 he served as a diplomat in Paris. Jefferson and James Madison founded the Democratic-Republican Party. He later fell out with George Washington and John Adams.

When he was elected president he called the event 'the Revolution of 1800'. He was strongly in favor of expanding the new United States to cover all of North America and he bought the Louisiana Territory from France in 1803. It was he who began the removal of American Indians against their will, sending them to the then unwanted Louisiana Territory west of the Mississippi River, and so allowing European settlers to take over their lands.

In this belief of 'Manifest Destiny', he sent out Lewis and Clark (1804–1806) to find a way west so that America could stretch from 'sea to shining sea'. Jefferson doubled the size of the United States. He was less successful in his second term in dealing with foreign relations.

Even though he forced the removal of American Indians, he was opposed to slavery in principle, although he actually owned hundreds of slaves and did not make them free. In 1807 Jefferson signed into law a bill that banned slave importation into the United States.

After his presidency he is famous for designing his own large mansion in Virginia, called Monticello. Jefferson died in Charlottesville, Virginia, on July 4, 1826, which was the 50th anniversary of American independence.

# 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 'unwanted'.

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

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

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

e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'unwanted' 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: founded	set up

# Sequencing

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

Jefferson became president in 'the Revolution of 1800'.

In 1807, Jefferson signed a bill that banned slave importation into the USA.

James Madison and Jefferson founded the Democratic-Republican Party.

After his presidency Jefferson built a mansion called Monticello.

In 1803, Jefferson bought the Louisiana Territory from France.

Thomas Jefferson was born in Virginia on April 13, 1743.

Jefferson sent out Lewis and Clark to explore west across America.



# Get to the facts

1 Which party did Jefferson found with James Madison?

2 In which event was Jefferson elected president?

3 What did Jefferson buy from France in 1803?

4 Who did Jefferson send out west across America?

5 Who did Jefferson remove from their land against their will?

# Make a story...

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

## Lewis and Clark

Imagine you are Thomas Jefferson. Write a letter to Lewis and Clark telling them that you want them to explore west across America... (now complete the story)

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

## Understanding words:

- a Write the sentence in which you found the word 'unwanted'.
- b From that sentence, suggest what 'unwanted' means.
- c Write a new sentence using the word 'unwanted'.
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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 – founded                      Synonym – set up

## Sequencing:

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

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