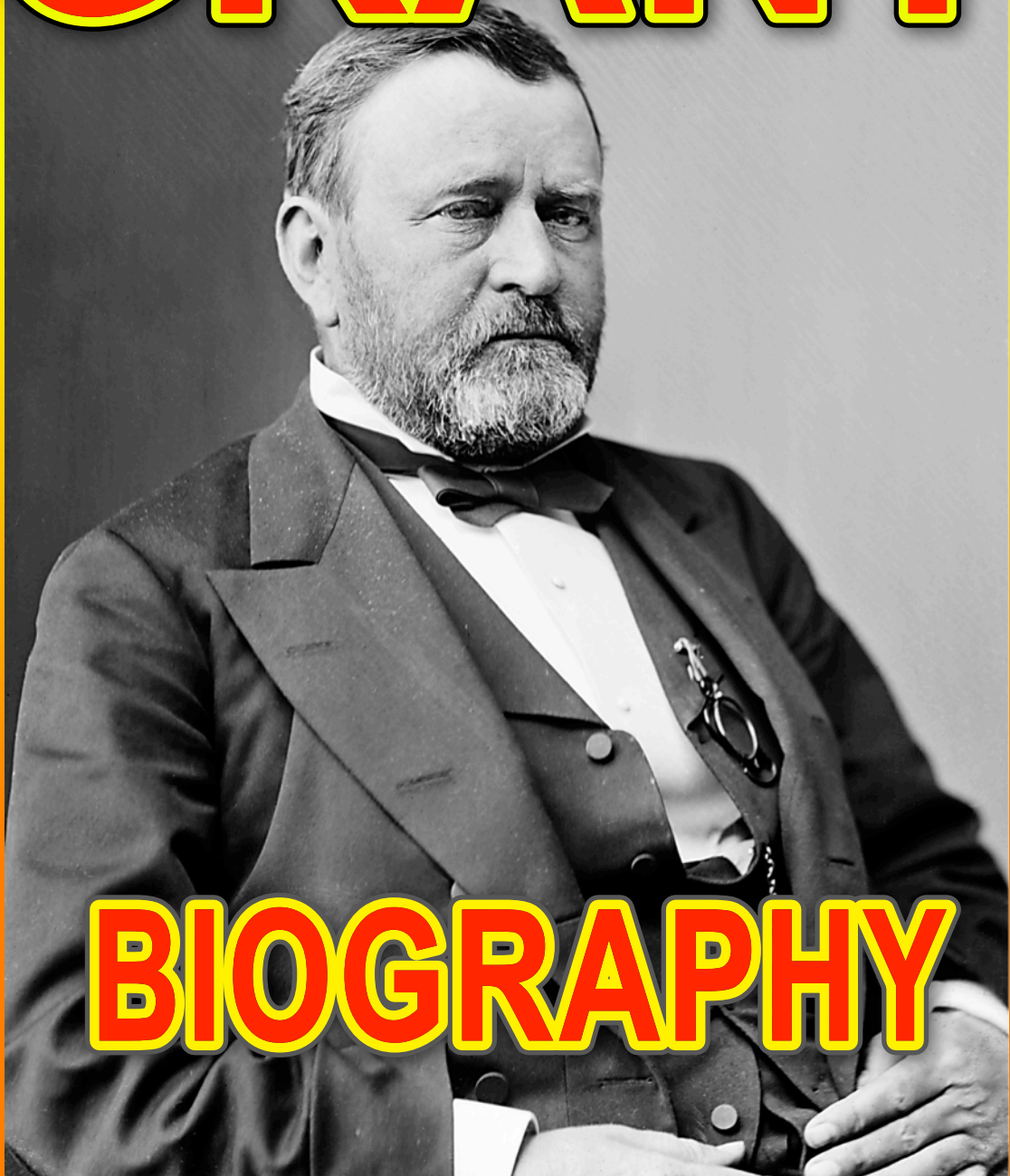


ULYSSES S. GRANT



BIOGRAPHY

ULYSSES S. GRANT

Ulysses S. Grant was born on April 27, 1822 in Point Pleasant, Ohio. He was commanding general of the U.S. armed forces and led the Union Armies to victory over the Confederacy in the American Civil War.

Grant was a very good commander, winning famous battles such as Shiloh, Vicksburg and incorporating African American slaves into the Union war effort. He was therefore a hero figure. As president, Grant worked to end slavery and protect African-American citizenship. He saw his task as maintaining peace and rebuilding the economy.

But he had many challenges because there were still many hatreds between peoples. Then there was a depression, called the Panic of 1873, and then gold was found in the Black Hills of Dakota, leading to a gold rush and the Great Sioux War (best known for Custer's Last Stand).

He used the army to build the Republican Party in the South, based on black voters, Northern newcomers ("Carpetbaggers"), and native Southern white supporters ("Scalawags"), so that African-Americans were elected to Congress. In 1880, he tried to get a third presidential term but was defeated.

In 1884, Grant was diagnosed with cancer, and so he began writing about his life for magazine publication. Later, he asked his friend, Mark Twain, to write and publish his memoirs. Grant died just as they were coming out, on July 23, 1885, in New York. His memoirs went on to be bestsellers.

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 'newcomers'.

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

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

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

e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'newcomers' 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: incorporating	

Sequencing

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

Grant ensured that African-Americans were elected to Congress.

During the war, Grant won famous battles.

Later on, Grant became ill, and so he had his memoirs published.

Ulysses S. Grant was born in Ohio in 1822.

But Grant faced problems, such as a depression, and then the Great Sioux War.

As president, Grant worked to end slavery and rebuild the economy.

Grant became a general in the army during the Civil War.

Get to the facts

1 Which battles did Grant win?

2 What was the depression called?

3 Where was gold found?

4 When did Grant run for a third presidential term?

5 Who published Grant's memoirs?

Make a story...

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

Letter to Mark Twain

Imagine you are Ulysses S. Grant. Write a letter to your friend, the writer Mark Twain, asking him to write your memoirs... (now complete the story)

Below is a plain text version for printing:

Understanding words:

- a Write the sentence in which you found the word 'newcomers'.
- b From that sentence, suggest what 'newcomers' means.
- c Write a new sentence using the word 'newcomers'.
- d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'newcomers'.
- e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'newcomers' means.

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 – incorporating	Synonym – bringing in
--------------------------	-----------------------

Sequencing:

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

Grant ensured that African-Americans were elected to Congress.

During the war, Grant won famous battles.

Later on, Grant became ill, and so he had his memoirs published.

Ulysses S. Grant was born in Ohio in 1822.

But Grant faced problems such as a depression, and then the Great Sioux War.

As president, Grant worked to end slavery and rebuild the economy.

Grant became a general in the army during the Civil War.

Get to the facts:

- 1 Which battles did Grant win?
- 2 What was the depression called?
- 3 Where was gold found?
- 4 When did Grant run for a third presidential term?
- 5 Who published Grant's memoirs?

Make a story...

Letter to Mark Twain

Imagine you are Ulysses S. Grant. Write a letter to your friend, the writer Mark Twain, asking him to write your memoirs... (now complete the story)

Ulysses S. Grant

Ulysses S. Grant was born on April 27, 1822 in Point Pleasant, Ohio. He was commanding general of the U.S. armed forces and led the Union Armies to victory over the Confederacy in the American Civil War.

Grant was a very good commander, winning famous battles such as Shiloh, Vicksburg and incorporating African American slaves into the Union war effort. He was therefore a hero figure. As president, Grant worked to end slavery and protect African-American citizenship. He saw his task as maintaining peace and rebuilding the economy.

But he had many challenges because there were still many hatreds between peoples. Then there was a depression, called the Panic of 1873, and then gold was found in the Black Hills of Dakota, leading to a gold rush and the Great Sioux War (best known for Custer's Last Stand).

He used the army to build the Republican Party in the South, based on black voters, Northern newcomers ("Carpetbaggers"), and native Southern white supporters ("Scalawags"), so that African-Americans were elected to Congress. In 1880, he tried to get a third presidential term but was defeated.

In 1884, Grant was diagnosed with cancer, and so he began writing about his life for magazine publication. Later, he asked his friend, Mark Twain, to write and publish his memoirs. Grant died just as they were coming out, on July 23, 1885, in New York. His memoirs went on to be bestsellers.