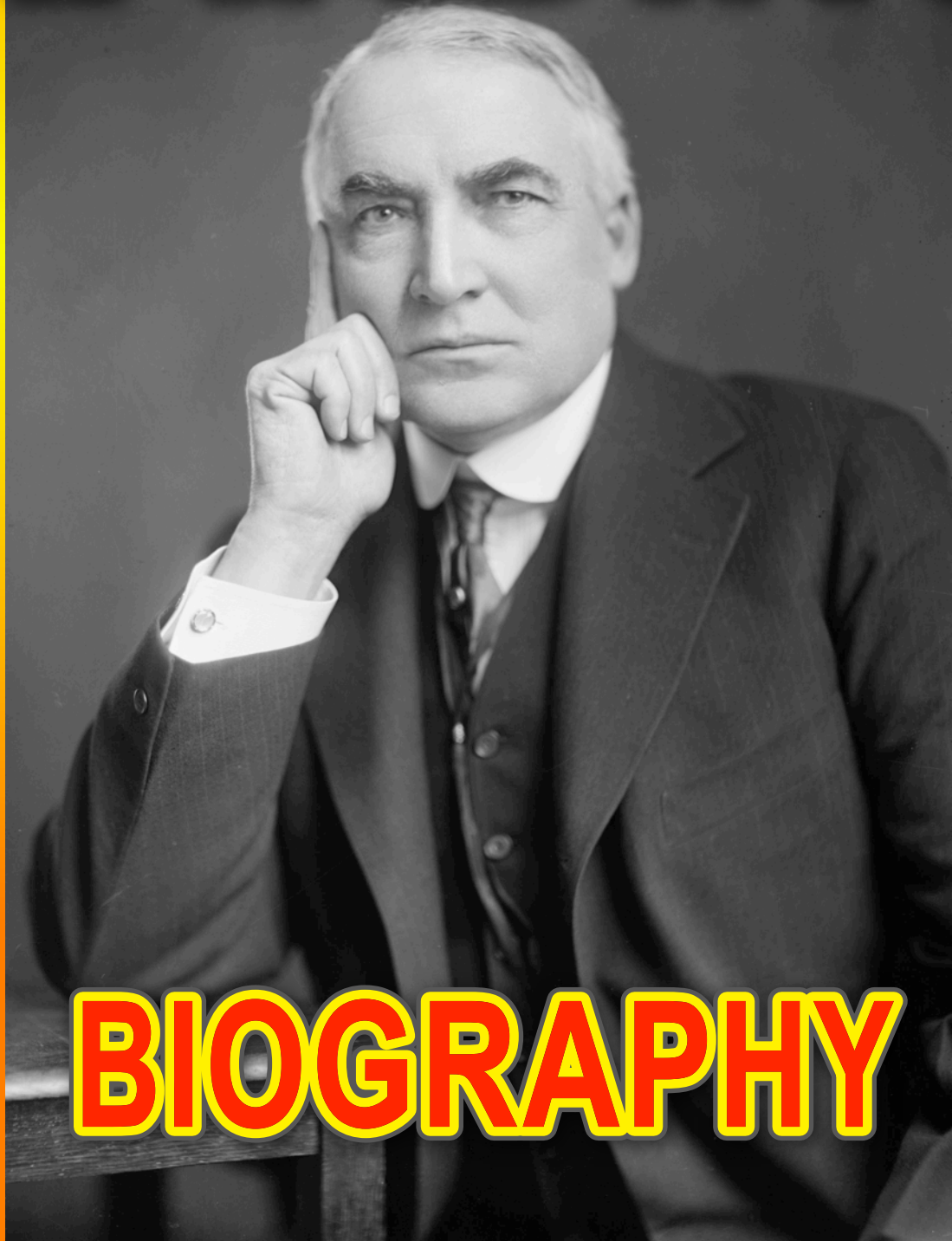


WARREN HARDING



BIOGRAPHY

WARREN HARDING

Warren Gamaliel Harding (November 2, 1865 – August 2, 1923) was born in Ohio and eventually went into the newspaper business. By an early age he was well known as a good public speaker. He became a Republican and supported the party through his newspapers.

In 1914, Harding was elected to the U.S. Senate, where he supported policies that were good for business, and prohibition.

Harding was chosen by the Republicans as compromise candidate in the 1920 election. He was the first to run a campaign using marketing tactics. He promised America a “return to normalcy”, with an end to violence and radicalism, a strong economy, and independence from Europe. He won the largest popular vote landslide (60% to 34%) in presidential history.

As president, Harding rewarded his friends with good positions, and they became known as the Ohio Gang. Rumors of corruption spread and one affair was the biggest scandal until Watergate. He created the Bureau of the Budget to prepare the first United States federal budget.

Harding did not like the League of Nations and made peace treaties with Germany and Austria. In August 1923, Harding suddenly collapsed and died in California.

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 'corruption'.

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

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

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

e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'corruption' 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: tactics	methods

Sequencing

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

Harding won the presidential election by a huge margin.

Warren Harding was born in Ohio, and worked in the newspaper business.

The Republicans chose Harding as presidential candidate in 1920.

Harding became a Republican, and supported the party in his newspapers.

Some people thought this was corrupt, and scandal followed.

As president, Harding promoted his supporters to government positions.

At a young age, he was known for his public-speaking skills.

Get to the facts

1 Which party did Harding support?

2 When was Harding elected to the U.S. Senate?

3 What did Harding promise America?

4 What were Harding and his group of friends known as?

5 Which countries did Harding make peace treaties with?

Make a story...

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

Warren Harding as president

Write a newspaper story about Warren Harding's time as president... (now complete the story)

Below is a plain text version for printing:

Understanding words:

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

Synonym – methods

Sequencing:

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

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The Republicans chose Harding as presidential candidate in 1920.

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