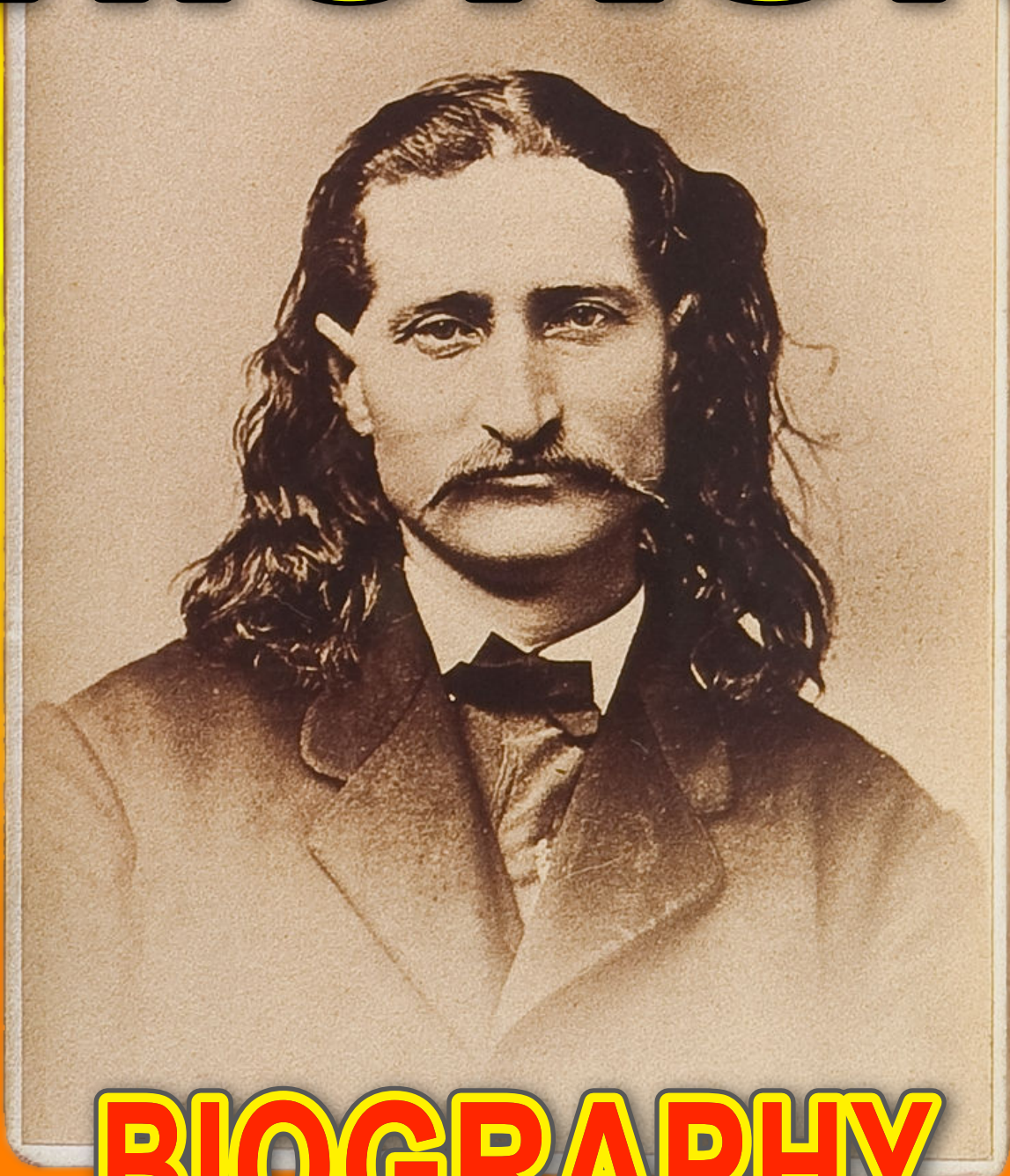


WILD BILL HICKOK



BIOGRAPHY

WILD BILL HICKOK

Wild Bill Hickok's real name was James Butler, and he was born in Illinois, on May 27, 1837. He was an expert shooter, and he moved to Kansas to work as a stage coach driver. The risk of attack from wild animals and bandits made it a dangerous job.

After working in law enforcement for a while, Hickok then worked for the Pony Express at a station in Nebraska. There he met David McCanles, who taunted Hickok and insulted his appearance. In 1861, their disagreement escalated. McCanles came to the station with two friends, and a gunfight broke out. As a result of the fight, McCanles was dead, and his two friends were fatally wounded, while Hickok walked away.

Hickok then moved to Missouri to scout for the Union Army. It was in Missouri that Hickok fell out with a man called Dave Tutt after a gambling match. Hickok lost the match, and Tutt took his pocket watch. When Hickok saw Tutt showing off the watch in the town square, Hickok shot him. Later legend exaggerated such events to claim that Hickok killed over a hundred men in his lifetime.

By 1871, Hickok was back in Kansas as a law-enforcer in Abilene. Here he fell in with notorious killer John Wesley Hardin. At first, the two men were friends, but Hickok ended up chasing him out of town.

But Hickok's gambling and drinking habits made him enemies, and he soon had to leave Abilene. Hickok then performed in Buffalo Bill Cody's Wild West shows, although it was not long before he was back in the west.

Hickok headed to Deadwood, South Dakota, in the hope of making money from mining. But he had a reputation as a fierce gunfighter, and he was soon back in the saloon, drinking and gambling. It was another gambling dispute that led to Hickok's death in August 1876, at the hands of Jack McCall.

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 '**taunted**'.

b From that sentence, suggest what '**taunted**' means.

c Write a new sentence using the word '**taunted**'.

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

e Draw a small picture showing what you think '**taunted**' means.

Try this for other words, too. 

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: dispute	argument

Sequencing

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

Hickok then moved to Missouri, where he got into gambling disputes.

For a while, Hickok was a law enforcer in Abilene, Kansas.

Hickok worked in Kansas as a stage coach driver.

There he fell out with, and shot dead, David McCanles.

After performing in Buffalo Bill Cody's Wild West shows, Hickok moved to South Dakota, where he was shot dead.

Wild Bill Hickok was born in Illinois in 1837.

Then Hickok worked at a Pony Express station in Nebraska.

Get to the facts

1 What made stage coach driving a dangerous job?

2 When did Hickok meet McCanles?

3 Who did Hickok fall out with in Missouri?

4 What did Dave Tutt take from Hickok?

5 Whose shows did Hickok perform in?

Make a story...

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

Stage coach driver

Imagine you are a stage coach driver. You are on the road in the middle of nowhere, when bandits suddenly approach the coach... (now complete the story)

Below is a plain text version for printing:

Understanding words:

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

Sequencing:

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

Hickok then moved to Missouri, where he got into gambling disputes.

For a while, Hickok was a law enforcer in Abilene, Kansas.

Hickok worked in Kansas as a stage coach driver.

There he fell out with, and shot dead, David McCanles.

After performing in Buffalo Bill Cody's Wild West shows, Hickok moved to South Dakota, where he was shot dead.

Wild Bill Hickok was born in Illinois in 1837.

Then Hickok worked at a Pony Express station in Nebraska.

Get to the facts:

- 1 What made stage coach driving a dangerous job?
- 2 Where did Hickok meet McCanles?
- 3 Who did Hickok fall out with in Missouri?
- 4 What did Dave Tutt take from Hickok?
- 5 Whose shows did Hickok perform in?

Make a story...

Stage coach driver

Imagine you are a stage coach driver. You are on the road in the middle of nowhere, when bandits suddenly approach the coach... (now complete the story)

Wild Bill Hickok

Wild Bill Hickok's real name was James Butler, and he was born in Illinois, on May 27, 1837. He was an expert shooter, and he moved to Kansas to work as a stage coach driver. The risk of attack from wild animals and bandits made it a dangerous job.

After working in law enforcement for a while, Hickok then worked for the Pony Express at a station in Nebraska. There he met David McCanles, who taunted Hickok and insulted his appearance. In 1861, their disagreement escalated. McCanles came to the station with two friends, and a gunfight broke out. As a result of the fight, McCanles was dead, and his two friends were fatally wounded, while Hickok walked away.

Hickok then moved to Missouri to scout for the Union Army. It was in Missouri that Hickok fell out with a man called Dave Tutt after a gambling match. Hickok lost the match, and Tutt took his pocket watch. When Hickok saw Tutt showing off the watch in the town square, Hickok shot him. Later legend exaggerated such events to claim that Hickok killed over a hundred men in his lifetime.

By 1871, Hickok was back in Kansas as a law-enforcer in Abilene. Here he fell in with notorious killer John Wesley Hardin. At first, the two men were friends, but Hickok ended up chasing him out of town.

But Hickok's gambling and drinking habits made him enemies, and he soon had to leave Abilene. Hickok then performed in Buffalo Bill Cody's Wild West shows, although it was not long before he was back in the west.

Hickok headed to Deadwood, South Dakota, in the hope of making money from mining. But he had a reputation as a fierce gunfighter, and he was soon back in the saloon, drinking and gambling. It was another gambling dispute that led to Hickok's death in August 1876, at the hands of Jack McCall.