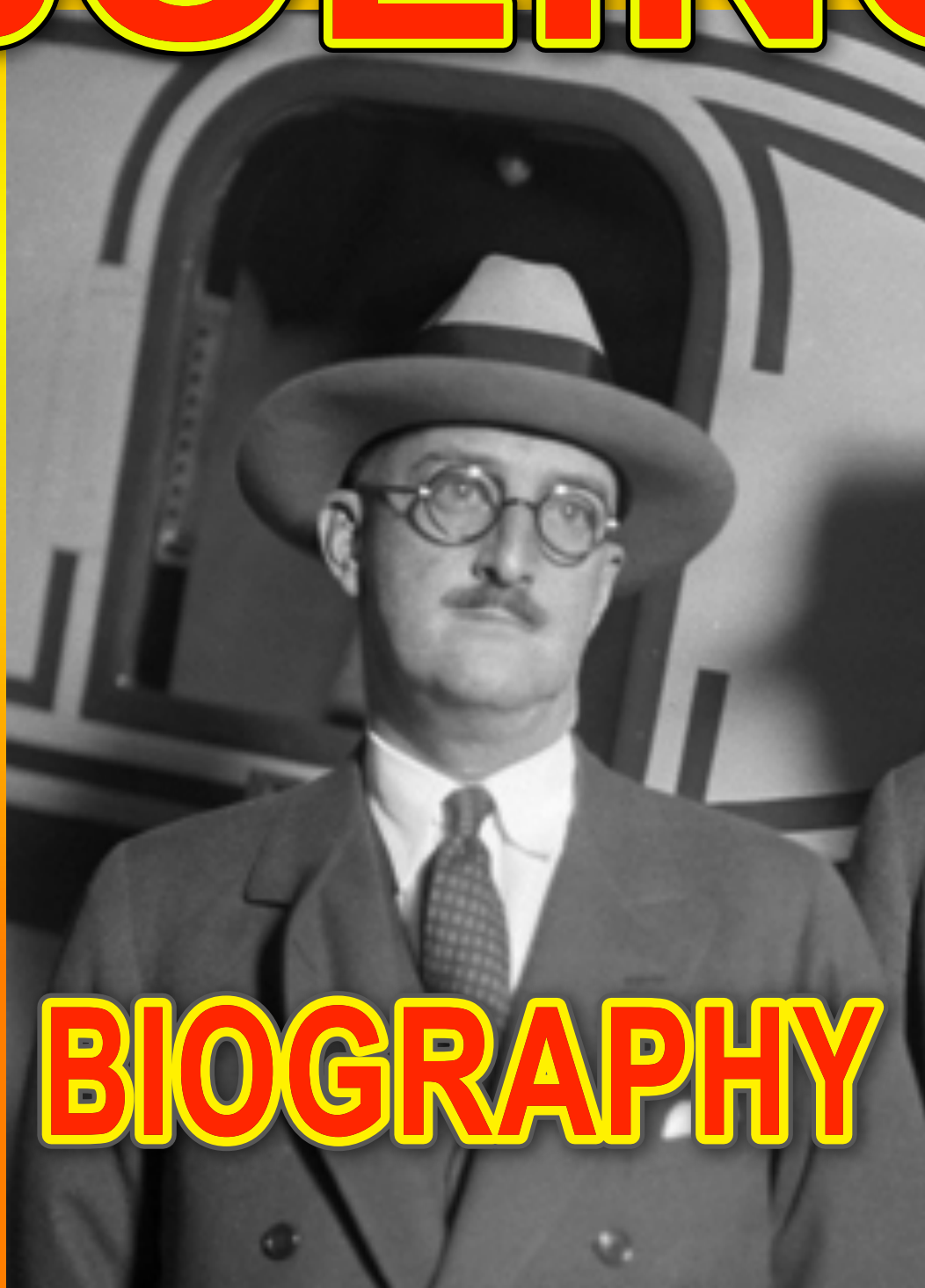# WILLIAM BOEING

BIOGRAPHY

WILLIAM BOEING

William Boeing was born on October 1, 1881, in Detroit, Michigan. His first business interest was in timber, and he became president of the Greenwood Timber Company. He worked in the Northwest of America, in Washington and Alaska.

It was in Seattle in the early 1900s that Boeing saw airplanes for the first time, and fell in love with aviation. Before long he had bought his own plane, and took flying lessons. One time, Boeing's plane needed repairs, but the parts took months to be made. He thought he could make a better plane, and make it faster.

And so Boeing set up a factory on the Duwamish River near Seattle, and started designing and making planes. He started out making seaplanes – light airplanes that could land on water. These first planes were a success.

During World War I, Boeing started to get orders for warplanes from the U.S Navy. It was around this time that Boeing called his company Boeing Airplane Company. Although he then distanced himself from the company financially, William Boeing still advised workers there. During World War II, the Boeing Company made bombers. These proved vital to American success in the war.

Later on, Boeing's company moved into making commercial airplanes. These were used to carry airmail at first. Then Boeing developed the Boeing 707 passenger plane to carry people. It was the forerunner of the Boeing jets used by many airlines today. In 1934, William Boeing was awarded the Daniel Guggenheim Medal for his contributions to the aviation industry. He died on September 28, 1956.

Understanding words

a Write the sentence in which you found the word 'aviation'.

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

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

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

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

Finding key words

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: forerunner	predecessor

Sequencing

At first, Boeing made seaplanes.

Boeing's first business interest was in timber in the Northwest of America.

William Boeing was born in Michigan in 1881.

Later on, Boeing produced commercial airplanes, like the ones still used today.

Once, his plane took a long time to be repaired, and Boeing thought he could do better.

There, Boeing fell in love with planes and aviation.

Then the company made warplanes during the World Wars.

Get to the facts

1   What was William Boeing's first business interest?

2   Where did Boeing fall in love with aviation?

3   What did Boeing make during World War I?

4   What did Boeing make during World War II?

5   What was the Boeing 707 plane for?

Make a story...

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

First flight

I took my seat in the seaplane, ready for my first ever flight. The plane was cramped, and it did not seem strong enough to hold me. Suddenly, the pilot switched on the engines, and the plane roared into life...(now complete the story)

Below is a plain text version for printing:

Understanding words:

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

Sequencing:

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

At first, Boeing made seaplanes.

Boeing's first business interest was in timber in the Northwest of America.

William Boeing was born in Michigan in 1881.

Later on, Boeing produced commercial airplanes, like the ones still used today.

Once, his plane took a long time to be repaired, and Boeing thought he could do better.

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Get to the facts:

1 What was William Boeing's first business interest?
2 Where did Boeing fall in love with aviation?
3 What did Boeing make during World War I?
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Make a story...

First flight

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